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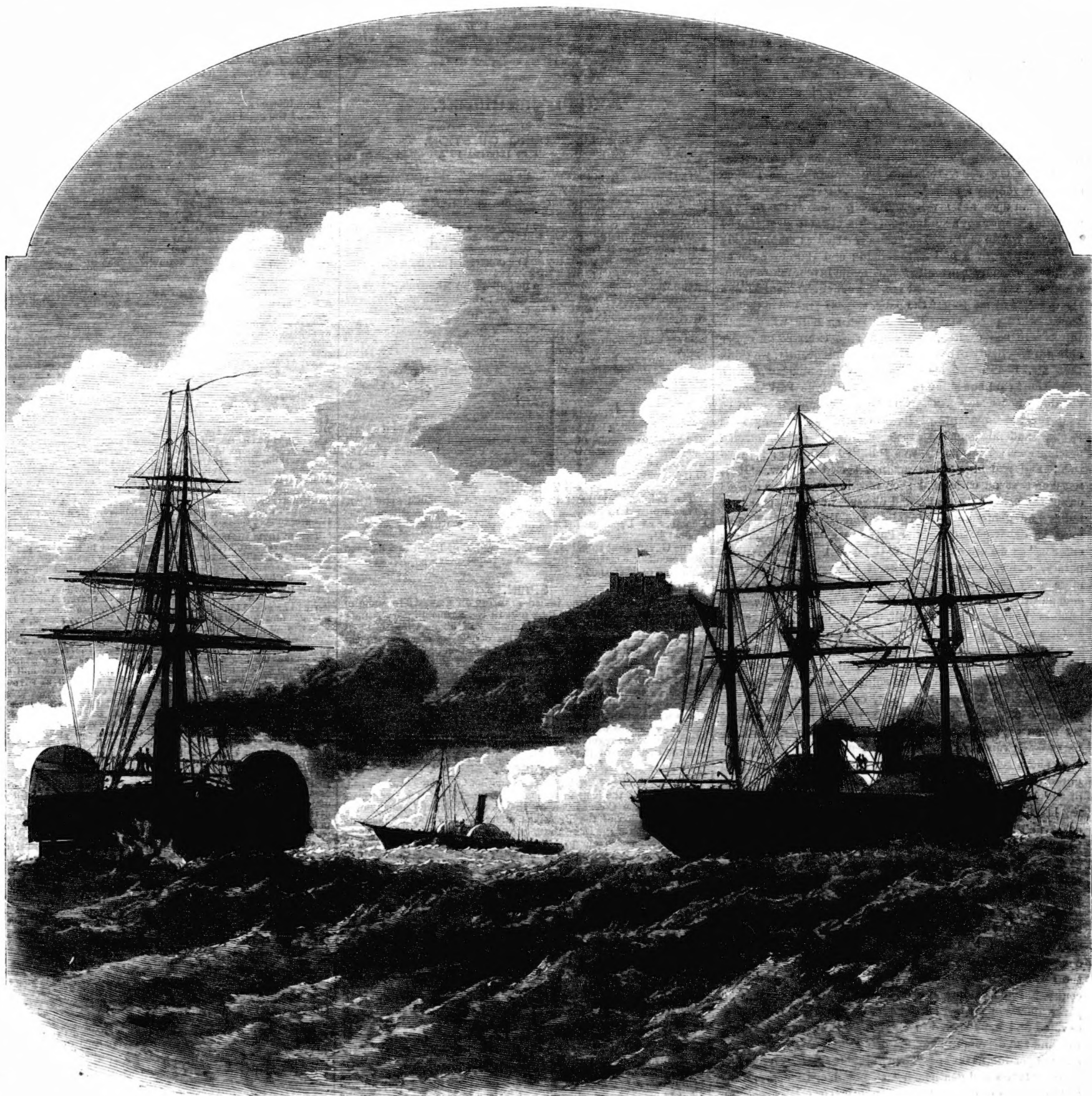
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POLITICAL PARTIES AND PUBLIC MEETINGS.

WE suppose it is of very little use to remonstrate with the several parties concerned, but we fear some very foolish action is contemplated on the subject of the proposed demonstration in Hyde Park on Monday next. Matters are assuming a portentous aspect. The Government has issued a proclamation declaring that the use of the park for political meetings "is not permitted," and in face of this notification the League has resolved to hold their meeting in the park in spite of Government. The question has therefore reached a

crisis, and a collision between the Leaguers and the authorities seems inevitable if both parties persevere. Mr. Beales has published a counter proclamation inviting the people to assemble, but to come "without bands and banners," and, "if time presses," not to stop to form processions. Processions, however, we presume, may be formed if time does not press. The affair, therefore, is likely to assume an aspect similar, if somewhat less ostentatious and imposing, to that of former occasions. It may be said that the Government have exceeded their powers in determining to "prevent" the meeting in

virtue of their own will and resolution simply, and not in fulfilment of law. The wording of their proclamation is vague and clumsy; but the facts remain that the meeting has been forbidden, that the Government is bound by implication to enforce that prohibition, and that the League has determined to meet in defiance of the Royal proclamation. This determination, we think, is neither wise nor politic. The persistence of the League in their intention to meet in Hyde Park, and in no other place, is sure to provoke opposition, opposition is sure to beget dis-



THE VOLUNTEER FIELD-DAY AT DOVER: ATTACK ON THE CASTLE BY THE FLEET.

turbance, disturbance is sure to afford opportunities for action to thieves and roughs, and all this is sure to bring disgrace and shame on the Reform cause.

Of course Mr. Beales and the other league leaders do not intend to achieve this result; but if to do so were their special aim, they could not adopt more effectual measures. It should be the prime object of Reformers just now to make friends, and not to convert timid neutrals into foes, or afford designing opponents opportunities of working upon the fears of weak people who have no particular convictions for or against Reform in Parliament. But these are exactly the results which large and noisy demonstrations are calculated to produce, and perhaps the only results they really are capable of producing. They cannot convince, but they may frighten; and people never take kindly to what has disturbed their nervous system and destroyed their customary equanimity of temper. It is not pleasant to be made "horribly afear'd," and to be conscious that the failing has been exhibited to other eyes. These monster demonstrations do frighten some weak though worthy folk, and therefore we think it indiscreet in the league leaders to let loose this "bogey," and afford a chance to men who are not weak but cunning to dilate upon the evil character of the terrible monster—Democracy.

Nor is it necessary that this should be done. Few persons now object to Parliamentary reform. The nature, not the necessity, of the change to be made is the point now in dispute. The question before the public is one of details, and details can never be discussed, much less settled—in fact, nothing can be really discussed—at open-air monster meetings. And this is tacitly admitted by the demonstrators themselves when they convene, as they always do, manageable indoor meetings after their open-air demonstrations are over. It is at these evening meetings that the speaking, the discussion, if discussion there is at all, takes place. Why not, then, abandon the fear-inducing and enemy-creating demonstrations, and concentrate the energies of leaders and followers on the debating indoor gatherings? Conduct these meetings in a free, fair, open manner; allow liberty of speech to all who choose to attend; and embody the result of the deliberations, whatever that may be, in resolutions and petitions to Parliament. Were this course followed, we will be bold to say that more good, and certainly less mischief, would be done than by persevering in the policy to which the leaders of the League seem so devotedly attached.

This plan does not involve any compromise of the right of public meeting or any abandonment of the claim to meet, if need be, in the public parks. The one is asserted as emphatically by assembling in a hall as in a field; and the other can be tried under more convenient and more favourable circumstances. A claim postponed is not a claim abandoned; and the question of meeting in the parks might be raised in quieter times, when party spirit does not run so high, when men's minds are less excited, and when rash excesses on either side are less likely to be committed. Consequently, we think that Mr. Beales and his colleagues would display a wise discretion in relinquishing their projected Hyde Park demonstration on Monday next. On the other hand, it would be well for the opponents of Reform to forbear raising false issues, and denouncing such meetings on unfounded assumptions. That policy was followed last year; it failed then, and should not be again resorted to now. It is not true that an occasional such meeting would "be carried out at the cost of the health and pleasure of the thousands of ladies and gentlemen, of invalids and little children, who must be debarred from Hyde Park every day the Reformers enter it," as we are told must be the case by a daily contemporary, which, while it calls itself *Liberal-Conservative*, is more Tory than are the Tories themselves. There is room enough in the parks for everyone—demonstrators, pleasure-hunters health-seekers, and all. None need go near the Reform meetings who dislike them or have other pursuits in view; and there is ample space in Hyde Park in which "ladies and gentlemen, invalids and little children," may disport themselves without coming into collision with Mr. Beales and the Leaguers. Hence it is folly, or something worse, for people to be vapouring, as certain scribblers have been doing for some days past in letters to the newspapers, about the parks being ruined as places of innocent and peaceful recreation, about repelling force with force, and making up their minds to join the ranks of the police, and submit to the chance of "broken heads instead of broken windows." If all parties would be rational and consent to bear and forbear with each other, neither heads nor windows would be in any danger of breaking. But headstrong obstinacy on either side is sure to cause mischief; and hence we deprecate such obstinacy on all hands.

But why should not this question of meeting in the parks be the subject of a compromise? Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli are continually insisting upon it that the Reform question can only be settled by compromise, by conciliation, by mutual concession, by the yielding of something by all parties to the views of their opponents. Well, let this rule of mutual concession and compromise be applied to the meeting-in-the-parks question also. Portions of Hyde Park are already devoted and kept sacred to the use of the riders in Rotten-row and the drivers in the "Ladies' Mile." Why should not another portion, as far apart from the spots specially frequented by the "ladies and gentlemen" as possible, be appropriated to the holders of demonstrations, political or otherwise? The political demonstrators, we are sure, would abstain from intruding into the Ladies' Mile; and surely the frequenters of the Ladies' Mile and Rotten-row could manage to keep clear of the *habitat* of the demonstrators. This, we think, is an arrangement

which might meet the views and secure the comfort and convenience of all parties, while it would outrage the feelings of none. Is there enough common-sense, kindly feeling, and mutual accommodation extant in the community to secure its adoption? If not, it is fair to conclude that the aim of those who affect to represent the "ladies and gentlemen" of the metropolis is not to conserve the West-End parks for the use and benefit of the whole community, but to secure them as "pleasure and flower gardens" for their own exclusive delectation—a feeling utterly unworthy of any class, but especially of "ladies and gentlemen," who should specially set an example of generous liberality, and not of grasping selfishness.

We own to feeling great anxiety on the threatening aspect which this matter has assumed. A violent collision between the populace and the authorities, we repeat, seems imminent; and such an event would be most deplorable in every view of the case. We are anxious for the preservation and promotion of popular rights, and especially the right of public meeting; but we also desire, as all sober-minded men and good patriots must, that law and order should not be outraged, and that Government should not be brought into contempt, however unpopular the present possessors of power may be. And hence we earnestly deprecate the persistence of the League in meeting in Hyde Park under existing circumstances, and we devoutly hope that wiser counsels may even yet prevail, and that the impending mischief may be averted.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT DOVER.

WE this week publish two further illustrations of incidents in the grand volunteer field day at Dover on Easter Monday, a full description of which appeared in our last Number. A reference to that description will enable our readers to understand fully our Engravings, one of which depicts the attack on the castle by the fleet and the other the final struggle for the position on the heights. It is only necessary to add here that all parties agree in pronouncing the Easter Monday volunteer review of 1867 the grandest affair of the kind that has yet been witnessed. It was, in fact, in every respect a thorough success, from which even the extortions practised by certain hotel-keepers and others could not detract.

Foreign Intelligence.

THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION.

The Luxembourg question is to be referred to a conference to be held in London.

The telegrams from the Continent affirm that the conference is to meet on May 7. If we may take the assertions of a French paper as being true, it would seem that the evacuation of the fortress of Luxembourg by the Prussians is not to be insisted upon as a preliminary to the conference. No programme is said to have been arranged; but the discussions will, it is thought probable, take a wider range than the question of the evacuation of the fortress and the neutralisation of the duchy. The official papers, both of France and Prussia, are pacific in tone.

The *Paris Evening Monitor*, in its bulletin on Wednesday, says:—Consulted by the King of Holland relative to Luxembourg, the Cabinet of Berlin appealed to the Treaties of 1839. France having without hesitation declared herself willing to examine the stipulations of those treaties, she hastened to make known that she was ready to proceed to do so in concert with the other Cabinets. England, Austria, and Russia offered her their good offices, which were accepted; and, not wishing to embarrass the action of those three Powers by taking an active part in the negotiations, the French Government left to them the care of broaching to Prussia a matter which, in the eyes of France, is before all a question of public right and the general interest.

FRANCE.

M. Rouher has declared to the Legislative Body that negotiations are afoot by which it is hoped peace will be maintained, and therefore the Government can give no information on the subject of Luxembourg just now. On this, M. Jules Favre demanded that the Government should take no definite step without communicating it to the House.

BELGIUM.

The Belgian Government, after meeting with much opposition have succeeded in carrying their electoral reform law through the Chamber of Deputies. The bill was finally passed by 65 votes against 41.

The Government submitted to the Chamber of Deputies a demand for a credit of 8,000,000*fr.* for the War Department, as well as a bill for a loan of 60,000,000*fr.*

SPAIN.

A Royal decree has been issued granting an amnesty to some of the subordinate officers who took part in the recent military risings. The Budget for 1865-6 shows a deficit of about three millions sterling. It is proposed to meet this deficit by economy in the various public departments and by the imposition of new taxes.

ITALY.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies has approved the convention of France as to the Papal debt by 165 against 58 votes. On the demand of the Italian Government France, has arrested three brigand chiefs who had arrived at Marseilles on their way to Algiers.

A Royal decree was published on Tuesday revoking that issued on March 28 for the regulation of the relations between the Ministers and the President of the Council.

PRUSSIA.

The extraordinary Session of the Prussian Chambers was opened, on Monday, by the King in person. The chief topic of his Majesty's speech was the Constitution of the North German Confederation and the position of the Prussians under it. His Majesty made no direct mention of the Luxembourg question, but said that his Government would endeavour to avert any interruption to the peace of Europe by every means compatible with the honour and interests of the Fatherland.

On Wednesday, in the Chamber of Deputies, Count Bismarck brought in the draught Constitution of the North German Confederation. The President moved that the Constitution should be taken into final consideration, and that a reporter should be appointed. The motion was carried by a large majority, and Herr Twisten was nominated reporter.

AUSTRIA.

A circular from the War Minister has just appeared, containing the new rules relating to the promotion of officers. The accompanying report to the Emperor of Archduke Albrecht, the Commander-in-Chief, lays stress upon the urgent necessity of extending the system of promotion hitherto in vogue. His Imperial Highness calls to mind that the distressing experiences of 1866 proved the need of promoting intelligent officers more rapidly than was possible by the former method, and states that in future intelligence and military efficiency will be the motives governing advancement. The Commander-in-Chief proposes the establishment of a class of aspirants to commissions not dependent upon the usual age for service; promotions in cases of special qualification; the formation of a reserve of Staff officers; the settlement of a maximum age for service, after reaching which retirement shall be compulsory; and the practice of immediate promotion for acts of extraordinary valour.

RUSSIA.

Severe laws have been promulgated against all illegal and secre

societies engaged in pernicious pursuits, under whatever title they may exist. The measures enact that acts of incendiarism having now lost the character they possessed in 1862 and 1864, only political incendiaries will in future be amenable to martial law.

TURKEY.

It is expected that a Turkish Representative Assembly will shortly be established, composed of sixty members, and having committees for the several administrative departments.

Advices from Constantinople to the 23rd ult. state that the Turkish Government was then preparing measures for carrying out the privileges promised to the Christians in the Hatti-Humayoun, as well as for allowing the tenure of landed property by Christians and foreigners, under certain conditions. Two out of the four Egyptian demands had been granted by the Porte.

THE CANDIAN INSURRECTION.

News from Greek sources asserts that Mehemet Pacha was defeated by the insurgents on April 18 at Aprocorona, 250 Turks, among whom was an officer of high rank, being killed. A fight is also said to have taken place on the 19th, near Heracleon, in which the Cretans were again victorious, capturing prisoners, munitions of war, and baggage. Omar Pacha, with 15,000 troops, is marching towards Sphakia, where 8000 insurgents are resolutely awaiting his approach.

THE UNITED STATES.

In refusing permission to the Mississippi petitioners to file a bill for an injunction against Mr. Johnson, Chief Justice Chase emphatically asserted the principle that the Supreme Court had no power to touch the President in his official capacity, and that, if it attempted to subject him to its jurisdiction, it had no power to enforce its authority; while, on the other hand, if the President obeyed the Supreme Court rather than Congress, he might render himself liable to impeachment.

The Conservative candidate has been elected Mayor of Pensacola, in Florida. A number of Radical negroes became riotous, and threatened to burn the city. A detachment of national cavalry was called out to preserve order.

Radical meetings have been held by the whites and negroes in Winston, Mobile, and North Carolina, at which resolutions were adopted in favour of affiliating with the Radical party in the North, purging Congress, and confiscating the property of the rebels. Numerous Conservative meetings of whites and negroes have been held at Petersburg (Savannah) and other places, at which Conservative principles were avowed; but, at the same time, submission to the Reconstruction Act was advocated.

A national scientific expedition to explore Russian America is being organised at Washington.

Advices from Belize (Honduras) to April 2 state that the Indian war was at an end, and that martial law had been suspended.

MEXICO.

Republican advices from Matamoros to the 13th ult. reiterate the news of the capture of Puebla by the Republicans, and of the offer made by Maximilian to capitulate, the terms of which had been refused by Juarez.

Advices from Vera Cruz to the 7th ult. state that the city is still closely besieged. According to Imperial accounts Miramon, after defeating Escobedo, marched upon Guadalajara. Escobedo was besieged in San Luis by Mejia. Republican accounts state that Porfirio Diaz had captured Puebla. The Emperor Maximilian attempted to break the siege of Queretaro, but was defeated, and the town is still besieged. Juarez has ordered that the Emperor, if captured, should be treated as a prisoner of war, with the consideration due to unsuccessful valour. An American steamer has arrived at Tampico, equipped as a Republican man-of-war.

OBSTRUCTION TO TRAFFIC AT BILLINGSGATE.—At the Court of Aldermen, on Tuesday, a very important discussion took place as to the sufficiency of the approaches to Billingsgate Market. Amongst other evidence of loss and inconvenience occasioned by the present want of space, it was stated by a railway carrier that his vans laden with fresh fish for the country were often delayed four hours from sheer inability to get out of the rack of carriages jammed into Thames street. Alderman Hale suggested that the market should commence at three a.m. instead of five a.m., as at present; and Alderman Gibbons laid the whole blame of the overcrowding upon the mode in which the salesmen now conducted their business. Eventually, the subject was referred to the general purposes committee.

DEATH OF A WATERLOO VETERAN.—There died at the village of Arosier, Inverness-shire, a few days ago, an old veteran named Donald Davidson, one of the fast-diminishing band of Waterloo heroes. Donald, who, it may be mentioned, had six toes on each foot, was born in the parish of Nairn, Nairnshire, in the year 1792, and enlisted in the 42nd Highlanders in June, 1813. He served with his regiment in the Peninsula, France, and the Netherlands, from February, 1814, to December, 1816. He was wounded at the Battle of Toulouse, and, slightly, on the head, at Quatre Bras. Notwithstanding, he stuck to his regiment, and was one of the gallant few who repulsed the grand charge of cavalry in the corn-field at Waterloo. He was discharged with 1*s.* per day of pension, and served for a long time as barack labourer in Fort George. He died at the advanced age of seventy-five years.

THE SNIDER RIFLE.—It is with the greatest satisfaction that we are enabled to state that the whole of the infantry in the Army in the United Kingdom are at this moment supplied with the Snider rifle, while there is an abundance of ammunition ready for their use. All the difficulties to which we have from time to time alluded have been overcome, and the reports from all districts announce a perfect satisfaction with the arm as a practical weapon. A considerable quantity of converted arms is in store ready to be served to regiments on their return from foreign service. It is intended immediately to issue these arms to the Army abroad, commencing with Gibraltar and Malta. Application has been made by the volunteers of Canada for the supply of the arm to that force. A snider rifle has been adapted for the use of the Irish constabulary. The necessity may therefore rest content that, pending the experiments that are to be conducted by the Committee on Snider arms, prolonged as they must be, our military forces are, in the respect of breech-loading rifled arms, in as advanced and satisfactory a position as can be desired.—*The Owl.*

MR. PEABODY AT HIS BIRTHPLACE.—The American papers report a reception given to Mr. George Peabody, at Danvers, Massachusetts, his birthplace. Twelve hundred scholars from the various schools of the town were formed in procession and marched through several streets of the place about noon, headed by a band of music, and received Mr. Peabody at the large Universalist church, which was crammed to overflowing. Closing a brief address to the children, Mr. Peabody said, "I have but little advice to give you. Your parents and teachers are much better qualified to judge of your needs of that kind; but it is safe to say—Endeavour constantly to practice the virtues of truth, honesty, punctuality, and fidelity in the discharge of duty. Be kind to all, especially to your schoolmates. Beware of the vices of envy and jealousy, and remember that there is room enough in the world for everyone to perform well his part and gain distinction without disparaging others. Cherish the habit of looking at the merits rather than the faults of your companions, and cultivate the Christian virtues of forbearance and forgiveness. Do all this, and you will find your reward even in this world, and a still greater in that which is to come. Farewell."

A ROMANCE OF THE SEA.—RETURN OF A LOST HUSBAND.—A singular and romantic incident has occurred at Sunderland, on the return of a man who for four years had been given up, and in the mean time his wife had again married. It appears that upwards of four years ago a seaman, named Fife, sailed in a Sunderland ship, named the *Sarrah*, for Australia. Fife left behind him a wife, to whom he had been married three years, and a child. On the vessel's arrival in Australia she was sold, and after that all trace was lost of Fife by his wife in Sunderland. After three years' silence, during which she mourned her husband as dead, Mrs. Fife was induced to listen to another suitor; and at the Whitechapel of 1866 she married a sailor, with whom she has lived happily since, little dreaming that her first husband was alive and would return to claim her. But so it was. Fife, on his arrival in Australia, had gone to the diggings, where he remained, and for some reason best known to himself, he had never communicated with his wife and child. From the diggings he returned to one of the seaports, and had the command of a vessel which sailed from Australia to other ports. In this trade he continued nearly three years, until he began to think of returning to England, and landed at Bristol last week. Still keeping his arrival secret, he proceeded to Sunderland, intending to surprise his wife, and before visiting her he made some inquiries of the police to ascertain if she was still living. At one o'clock on Sunday morning last he knocked at the door of his father-in-law, a bill-poster named Scott, where his wife was staying, and the surprise of his sudden appearance and unexpected return may easily be conceived. His wife at first doubted the reality, but soon was convinced that he was in the flesh, and a scene of rejoicing followed. The long separated couple have again become united, but the difficulty will be to meet the claims of the second husband. Fortunately, he is from home, having sailed only a few days previously on a voyage to New York.

THE PROPOSED REFORM DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK.

On Wednesday evening a meeting of delegates from trades, friendly, and temperance societies, and branches of the Reform League, was held in the Sussex Hotel, Bouverie-street, under the presidency of Mr. Edmond Beales, chiefly to consider the question of holding the proposed meeting in Hyde Park on Monday next. The chairman read the following proclamation, which was issued on Thursday:—

Hyde Park.—R. L.—Men of London, who, not having yet the power of voting for those who are called your representatives, desire to have that power and to make the representation of the people a reality, come together once more to express your desire unanimously and firmly, and to claim the franchise which reason, justice, and the Constitution give you. Come and join in the protest of your brethren and fellow-countrymen at Birmingham, Newcastle, and Leeds against the restrictive conditions of the bill now before the House of Commons. That bill affects to be intended to give you the franchise; but in reality it, in many respects, excludes you from it, or accompanies an unwilling concession with conditions contrived to embarrass you in its acquisition and exercise. Come and meet the council of the Reform League in Hyde Park, on Monday next, the 6th of May, at half-past six o'clock precisely. Come as loyal, peaceful, and orderly citizens, enemies of all riot and tumult, but unalterably fixed and resolved in demanding and insisting upon what you are entitled to. If time presses, stay not to form processions, but come straight from your work. Come without bands and banners. Show that the cause itself is sufficient to call forth your energies and animate your exertions. Your enemies have ventured to treat your former demonstrations and meetings with the insolence of revellings and sneers; an insolence that springs from baseness is ever the proof of conscious wrong and injustice, and has but too often imperilled the peace of nations. Let your only and disdainful answer be to meet again and again in your moral strength, until you are fully and ungrudgingly invested with that which is your birthright as the citizens of a free State—the right to vote in the choice of those who make your laws, impose your taxes, govern your country, and exercise rule over your properties, your liberties, and your lives. If you are driven to adopt any other means, passive or active, for self-protection or for the support and advancement of your undoubted rights, be the fault and the responsibility with your opponents. The question is not one of party, and ought not to be one of class. It is one affecting equally the national inheritance of all, whether Tories or Conservatives, Whigs or Radicals.

EDMOND BEALES,
President of the Reform League.

During the proceedings three inspectors of police entered the room, by permission, and laid before the meeting the subjoined proclamation by the Government:—

Whereas it has been publicly announced that a meeting will be held in Hyde Park, on Monday, the sixth day of May, for the purpose of political discussion. And whereas the use of the park for the purpose of holding such meeting is not permitted, and interferes with the object for which her Majesty has been pleased to open the park for the general enjoyment of her people. Now all persons are hereby warned and admonished to abstain from attending, aiding, or taking part in any such meeting, or from entering the park with a view to attend, aid, or take part in such meeting.

(Signed) S. H. WALPOLE.

Home Office, Whitehall, May 1, 1867.

When the inspectors had retired, an animated discussion took place on the course to be pursued. Ultimately it was unanimously resolved:—

That this meeting, having received a communication, signed by her Majesty's Home Secretary of State, informing it that the use of Hyde Park for the purpose of holding the intended meeting there for political discussion on Monday next is not permitted, is of opinion that there is no legal or Constitutional authority for the issuing of any such document, or for this attempt on the part of any Government, or any individual member of a Government, to prevent such meeting; and therefore it is resolved, in support of our great Constitutional rights, to recommend to the executive committee that such meeting be held, as publicly notified.

Several badges to be worn at the meeting were then exhibited, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Mr. Joseph Collett, of the Reform League, has addressed to Mr. Beales, president of that body, a letter on the resolution of its council to hold "a bonâ fide meeting in Hyde Park" on May 6. Mr. Collett holds that the people have a right to meet in the park; but, before defying the authorities, "men should be prepared to act as men, and not as bombastic children." As he understands the resolution of the executive of the league, it is determined to call forth a demonstration similar to that of July last; so that if the authorities adopt the course they did then, either an appeal to force must be the result or Reformers would have once more to retire. Mr. Collett believes that it would be not only impolitic but criminal to bring the question to such an issue as that, for these reasons:—

If the people of this country are really prepared to join issue with the Government, then they have something better to do than to fight their fellow-men of the army and the police about a question of admittance into the park. However important the question of the right of meeting may be, if to settle it force must be resorted to and blood shed, then the people must be prepared either to submit or to destroy the present political fabric. I think they are not yet ripe for such an issue, and therefore I say that it would be unwise and criminal to necessarily produce violence and bloodshed to no practical purpose. Suppose that the Reformers were even to force their way into the park, what then? Do you think that the Government would stop there? What if they bring armed force against you? Are you prepared to meet them? What if Parliament were to pass a bill forbidding meetings in the parks? Would you then turn Parliament out?

LORD GROSVENOR AND THE £5 RATING AMENDMENT.—The following circular has been sent to the various municipal bodies throughout the country by Earl Grosvenor:—"28, Prince's-gate, Kensington, W., April 24.—Having given notice of an amendment in Committee of the Reform Bill to alter the Small Tenements Act by making its provisions apply to houses below £5 rating, and making it compulsory upon landlords of tenements rated at a sum below that figure to pay the rates themselves, I shall be much obliged by your kindly giving me your opinion as to whether such alteration would be likely to cause serious inconvenience to the vestries in their arrangements for levying the rates."

DEPUTATIONS TO LORD DERBY AND MR. DISRAELI.—A deputation from the promoters of an association just formed and called "the Conservative Union" waited on Tuesday upon Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to express confidence in the Government and satisfaction with its measures, especially on the question of Reform. The addresses delivered were of the character which might be expected from a deputation which appeared with these objects. Most of the speakers promised the support of the working men to the Government, especially those who came from the north and west of England. Lord Derby, in reply, expressed his gratification at finding that Conservative principles were making way amongst the working classes, who were erroneously supposed to be the devotees of democracy. He defended the principle of a rating as opposed to a rental franchise, and spoke in favour of voting-papers as affording a help to the weak, the sick, and the timid. Mr. Disraeli, who was most warmly received, expressed his gratitude for the support he met with, and his confidence in the eventual success of the bill now before the House, in spite of all opposition. Another deputation, this time from the Norwich Conservative Working Men's Association, had also an interview with Mr. Disraeli. The speakers expressed their full satisfaction with the Reform Bill now before the House. In reply the Chancellor of the Exchequer defended his measure from the charge of being "revolutionary and new-fangled," and expressed his conviction that it was in accordance with the principles of the Constitution and the wishes of the people of England.

THE "THIMBLERIG."—After the explanations of Mr. Dillwyn and Mr. Owen Stanley in the House of Commons last night, "the episode" becomes more mysterious than ever. Mr. Dillwyn complained over and over again that, not having received notice of Mr. Osborne's question when last the subject was discussed, he had had no opportunity of collecting his thoughts and of making a fair statement of the case. But it was observed that, after nearly three weeks of reflection and preparation, Mr. Dillwyn's ideas appeared more confused, his narrative more incoherent, and his manner more embarrassed than in his previous unprepared performance. On one point his case entirely broke down, for the allegation that the memorandum was only circulated in order to induce independent members to comply with the wish of the Government, and to support Lord Grosvenor's motion for adjournment, was immediately disposed of by Mr. Owen Stanley, who declared that the document was first shown to him several hours after Lord Grosvenor's motion was dead and buried, when its only object could be to influence votes upon Mr. Gladstone's amendment. We trust that this matter is not to be allowed to drop. There is an air of secrecy and intrigue about the whole transaction. Colonel Taylor was in the House on Monday, but he made no sign; and his silence is not a little suspicious when it is remembered that great indignation was expressed that Mr. Osborne should have brought forward the question in his absence. A great principle is involved; for, if the public declarations of Ministers upon subjects of the highest national importance are to be qualified by private and confidential promises to individual members, how is the House to know the true character of the issue upon which it is asked to vote; and how, under such a system, can Parliament hope that its decisions will be understood and accepted by the country?—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE LIBERAL PARTY.

Mr. E. Baines, M.P., has addressed a letter to Mr. Crawford on the general question of Mr. Gladstone's relations to the Liberal party. He appeals to Mr. Crawford for the initiation of some measure calculated to bring back Mr. Gladstone to the position of leader. Without this the party will be paralysed, and "the mighty interests of the constitution will be abandoned to the tender mercies of anti-reformers." Mr. Gladstone has been accessible to opinions from every quarter, and has deferred to the judgment of a minority for the common cause. If he has committed any fault it has been by yielding too much, not too little. True independent members must decide on their course for themselves, but if they detach themselves from the body of the Reformers the inevitable consequence will be the surrender of our representative system into the hands of the Tories to model it according to their will. Mr. Baines declares his alarm at the position of the Reform question. "The bill of the Government," he says, is so bad from beginning to end that I have no hope of its being made worthy of the acceptance of Parliament or the country. The county franchise is not adequately extended. The borough franchise is constructed to beguile the Radicals, yet to satisfy the Tories; and either the one party or the other will be horribly cheated by it. It will entail upon us conflict in our parishes and corruption at our elections. In some boroughs it will admit the very lowest class of householders; while in the vast majority of boroughs, as in my own, it will exclude the skilled, educated, and well-paid artisans. The principle of the dual vote has been universally condemned in the House and the country. The proposed plan of voting by polling-papers is open to endless fraud and the exercise of undue influence to an unlimited extent. The two years' residence is a great injustice to the new voters as compared with the old. The fancy franchises are liable to gross abuse. The absence of a lodger franchise will make the bill inoperative in the metropolis. The redistribution of seats is ridiculously inadequate to redress the anomalies of the electoral map. Such are some of the objectionable features of the bill, and it is an additional cause of alarm that it is to be conducted through the Committee by a Minister of whom it is needless to say more than that he is the author of the measure. Unless the Reformers can re-unite under a recognised leader, it is evident that every attempt to check the rapid progress of the bill or to change its character will utterly fail. The Liberal majority will become a routed minority; and we ought gravely to consider how we shall be able to justify ourselves to our constituents and the country for permitting the ruin of the Reform cause when we had actually the means in our hands of ensuring its triumph. There seems to me no possible means of averting this disaster and disgrace but by appealing to Mr. Gladstone again to take the initiative."

A public meeting of the Liberal county electors in support of the Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone, M.P., was held at Hengler's Circus, Newington, Liverpool, on Tuesday night. William Rathbone, jun., Esq., presided. The building holds about 3000 persons. The admission was by ticket, and was chiefly confined, in the first instance, to county electors, of whom about 1500 had signified their intention to attend. In opening the business of the meeting, the chairman read the following letter from Mr. Gladstone:—"Hawarden, Chester, April 29.—My Dear Mr. Rathbone,—I am deeply grateful to the Liberal electors of the hundred of West Derby for adding to their previous acts of kindness the generous support which they propose to afford me by the meeting about to be held in Liverpool on the 30th inst. I am further obliged by your giving me the opportunity of appearing among them on that occasion. But I am of opinion, on the whole, that my taking part in the proceedings, associated as they are with my personal position, would not be advantageous to the common cause. To that cause I need hardly, I trust, assure you and them of my continued devotion. Every step I have taken since the commencement of the Session has been in strict fulfilment of the pledge given by me in July last, after retiring from office, to resist every illusory and every reactionary proposal, but cheerfully to promote by all the means in my power a liberal and effectual settlement of the question of Reform. The last three months have been spent in the endeavour to redeem the first portion of this engagement. By all such legitimate means and opportunities as may be afforded me I shall continue the struggle, be it long or short, until the end in view shall have been attained by the passing of a measure based upon principles liberal, intelligible, durable, and equal in their application to the various classes of persons whom they may affect. The following resolutions were carried, amid enthusiastic cheering:—"1. That the Liberal electors of the West Derby Hundred of South Lancashire beg to express their continued confidence in their representative, the Right Hon. Wm. Ewart Gladstone, M.P., whose zeal, earnestness, honesty of purpose, and commanding eloquence point him out as the true leader, alike in the House of Commons and in the country, of the great Liberal party. 2. That this meeting records its condemnation of the Reform Bill proposed by the Tory Government as a measure which, if carried, will not settle the question, but will give rise to continued agitation. 3. That this meeting greatly deplains the divisions which seem to exist among the Liberal members of Parliament, and earnestly hopes that henceforth a united Liberal party will support Mr. Gladstone."

RITUALISM.—Sir Walter Scott used to tell, with much zest, a story of a man who tried to frighten his friend by encountering him at midnight on a lonely spot which was supposed to be the resort of a ghostly visitant. He took his seat on the haunted stone, wrapped in a long white sheet. Presently, to his horror, the real ghost appeared and sat down beside him, with the ominous ejaculation, "You are a ghost, and I am a ghost; let us come closer and closer together." And closer and closer the ghost pressed, till the sham ghost, overcome with terror, fainted away. This, we fear, is the fate which awaits the Ritualistic initiators of the Church of Rome. That mighty ghost—"the ghost of the deceased Roman empire," the ghost of the dead Middle Ages—will press closer and closer to our poorly-dressed ghost, till the greater absorbs the lesser, or deprives it, by mere juxtaposition, of any true spiritual life.—*Edinburgh Review.*

AN ECCENTRIC DIVINE.—The Rev. Zeb. Twitchel was the most noted Methodist preacher in Vermont, U.S., for shrewd and laughable sayings. In the pulpit he maintained a suitable gravity of manner and expression, but out of the pulpit he overflowed with fun. Occasionally he would, if emergency seemed to require, introduce something queer in a sermon for the sake of arousing the flagging attention of his hearers. Seeing that his audience were getting sleepy, he paused in his discourse and discussed as follows:—"Brethren, you haven't any idea of the sufferings of our missionaries in the new settlements, on account of the mosquitoes in some of these regions being enormous. A great many of them would weigh a pound, and they will get on logs and bark when the missionaries are going." By this time all ears and eyes were open, and he proceeded to finish his discourse. The next day one of his hearers called him to account for telling lies in the pulpit. "There never was a mosquito that weighed a pound," he said. "But I didn't say one of them would weigh a pound; I said a great many, and I think a million of them would." "But you say they barked at the missionaries." "No, no, brother, I said they would get on logs and bark."

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, a reward of £6 10s. was voted to the crew of the institution life-boat stationed at Lytham for putting off during a heavy gale of wind and bringing safely into harbour the barque A. L. Rowth, of New York, and her crew of fourteen men, which was found in a dangerous position on the Salthouse bank on the 11th ult. A reward of £17 5s. was likewise voted to pay the expenses of the society's Blackpool life-boat in putting off, on the 11th ult., in reply to signals of distress during a heavy gale from the W.N.W., and rescuing the crew of fourteen men of the barque Susan L. Campbell, bound to Weymouth, Nova Scotia, which had become a total wreck on the south west spit of Salthouse bank. The Broadwater life-boat, stationed at Ilfracombe, belonging to the institution, put off on the 20th ult., during a gale of wind, in reply to signals of distress from the ship Nor' Wester, bound from Cardiff to Monte Video, and brought ashore the captain's wife, three children, and a servant girl. The wind subsequently having considerably lulled, the ship returned to Cardiff for a refit. A reward of £14 4s. was given to pay the expenses of the society's Swansea life-boat in going off, in reply to signals of distress, to the assistance of the brig Wellington, of Aberystwith, which had stranded in Swansea Bay; and afterwards, with the assistance of a steam-tug, succeeding in taking the vessel and her crew of nine men safely into harbour on the 14th ult. Rewards amounting to £105 were also voted to pay the expenses of various other life-boats belonging to the institution for different services during the past month. Various other rewards were also granted to the crews of different shore-boats for saving life from shipwreck. The thanks of the institution inscribed on vellum were ordered to be presented to R. B. Forbes, Esq., president of the Life-boat Society in Boston, U.S., in acknowledgment of his long and valuable services to shipwrecked sailors on the coast of Massachusetts. The institution decided to place an additional life-boat at Caistor, on the coast of Norfolk, and to appropriate the same to the subscribers to "Routledge's Magazine for Boys Life-boat Fund." Edmund Routledge, Esq., the able editor of the magazine, had been indefatigable in promoting this humane undertaking. Payments amounting to nearly £2000 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. New life-boats were also ordered to be sent to Caerdyth, in Cornwall; Brooke, in the Isle of Wight; and Newhaven, in Sussex. New life boat houses were also ordered to be built at Eastbourne and at Brighton. It was reported that a late benevolent lady, named Mrs. Marten, had for many years past been saving money for the purpose of stationing a life-boat on the coast. Her relatives had placed £450 at the disposal of the institution, and had requested that the boat might be stationed on the Isle of Wight. A legacy of £80 had been received from the executors of the late Dr. Brownrigg, of Keighley, Yorkshire; the late Mrs. Mary Ann Smith, of Greenwich, had left a legacy of £1000, free of duty, to the institution; the late Miss Oxenham, of Kensington, £200; and Charles Walker, Esq., of Southport, £100. New life-boats have been sent during the past month to Falmouth, Exmouth, Blyth, and New Brighton. Reports were read from the inspector and the assistant inspector of life-boats of the institution, on their recent visits to various life boat stations on the coast.

OBITUARY.

LORD LLANOVER.—Lord Llanover died on Saturday last, at his house in Great Stanhope street, May-fair, after severe sufferings. The deceased will long be remembered for his consistent and unswerving Liberalism, as well as for his undoubted acuteness of intellect and his high administrative ability. He was a staunch politician, an excellent friend, and, in every sense of the word, "an honest man." The deceased nobleman was the eldest son of Benjamin Hall, Esq., M.P., of Hensell Castle, Glamorganshire. He was born in 1802, and consequently was at the time of his death sixty-five years of age. He received his education at Westminster, and at Christ Church, Oxford; and first entered Parliament, as member for Monmouth, in 1831. In November, 1837, he was elected for the borough of Marylebone, which constituency he continued to represent until June, 1839, when he was elevated to the Peerage with the title of Lord Llanover. Previous to his acceptance of office Sir Benjamin Hall took a leading and active part in the discussions in the House of Commons on questions affecting the Church establishment. In August, 1854, he accepted the office of President of the Board of Health, which he held until August of the following year, when he accepted the post of First Commissioner of Works. It was during his tenure of that office that Sir Benjamin Hall introduced the measure for the local government of the metropolis under which the present Metropolitan Board of Works was elected, and made such great improvements in the parks of the metropolis. He was created a Baronet in 1838, Privy Councillor in 1854, and Lord Llanover in 1859.

CARLO POERIO.—The death is announced from Florence of the Deputy Carlo Poerio, whose long and cruel imprisonment in Naples had made his name well known to English readers. He was born in 1803, and was the son of an advocate of Naples. Up to 1848 he had been subject to constant arrests in consequence of his gratuitous defence of political prisoners, but in the latter year he was for a short time one of King Ferdinand's Ministers. The horrors of the dungeon in which he was subsequently imprisoned were forcibly described by Mr. Gladstone, who visited him. In 1859 he and other political offenders were placed on board a vessel for the United States, but the exiles compelled the captain to land them at Cork. During his stay in England Poerio, by the virtues of his character no less than by his misfortunes, made numerous and influential friends. In 1860 he was chosen member of the Turin Parliament, and he retained his position as deputy ever since. His health was known to have been much enfeebled by the hardships of his imprisonment.

"THE GREAT CITY," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

OUR Theatrical Lounger last week noticed Mr. Halliday's new drama, "The Great City," recently produced at Drury-Lane Theatre, and passed a somewhat severe censure upon the author for condescending to write up to the ideas of scene-painters instead of insisting upon their painting up to his. Our Contributor, as his manner is, spoke his mind out freely upon the subject; and his opinions are shared, to some extent at least, by most of our contemporaries, some of whom, however, see merits in certain parts of the piece which the fastidious judgment of our Lounger did not allow him to recognise as such. By way, however, of putting criticism aside, we may now, in connection with the accompanying Engraving, place before our readers a narrative of the incidents of the drama, and leave them to form their own opinions as to the construction and management of the plot.

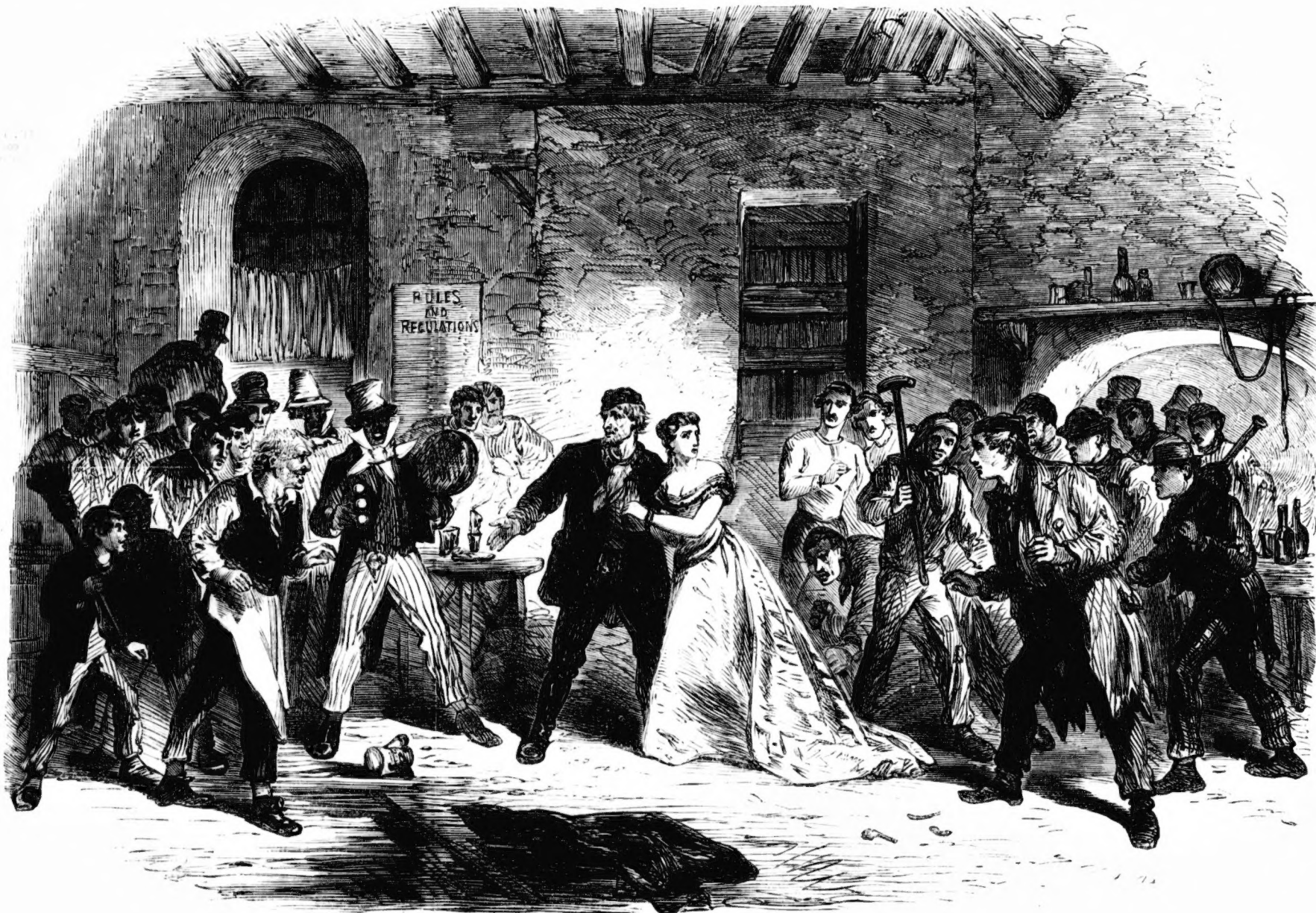
The story of the new drama is a romantic one; but it does not follow that a romantic story is always dramatic, or that, in the endeavour to bring into one view all the possible phases and varieties of London life, probability may not be too far outraged for stage purposes, and that a false instead of a true picture of society may not be presented. The central figure of the plot of the new drama is a young lady called Edith Fairlam, ignorant of her own origin and connections; although, up to the period at which the drama opens, care has been taken of her education through the instrumentality of a Mr. Wilson, a London attorney. His regular remittances, however, failing, Edith has been driven from her home, and arrives at the Charing-cross terminus with a view of seeking out Mr. Wilson amidst the maze of the metropolis. She has one friend, a lover, Arthur Carrington; but he has fallen into dissipation, and his passion for drink prevents his waiting, as had been arranged, for the arrival of the train by which Edith is expected. Instead of her lover, she encounters on her arrival Blount, a villainous clerk, who had persuaded Arthur's uncle to disinherit him, and now a financier of the modern school; Mendez, a Jew, who figures through the drama; and Major O'Gab, a Celtic American. Blount accuses Edith, p. offends an interest in her fortunes, and offers to conduct her to Mr. Wilson, whom he pretends to know. Another important personage in the story also arrives by the train: this is Mogg, an escaped convict, wealthy and anxious to atone for the fraud which exiled him. In a subsequent scene Mogg and Blount recognise each other as companions in villainy years past and agree neither to denounce the other. Arthur's remorse at having missed Edith drives him to contemplate suicide, but at the foot of Waterloo Bridge he recognises her in the company of Blount as the curtain falls in the first act.

In the second act Edith has become possessed of a fortune. Blount aspires to be her husband, but is thwarted by an old flame Mrs. Mauvry, who has lent him money. Blount's rejection by Edith and Mrs. Mauvry's demand for payment occur nearly simultaneously at a party given by Edith, at the close of which she grants an interview to a messenger from the mysterious personage who has bestowed wealth upon her, and who turns out to be Mogg, the returned convict, and her father. He, however, soon leaves her, promising not to return. Blount, who has overheard the interview, makes use of his knowledge to urge his own claims, is dismissed in uncertainty, whilst Edith determines to seek her father and warn him of the danger he is in from Blount's knowledge of his return to England. Her search for him leads her into scenes where her presence jars not a little, if not upon improbability, upon the conventionalisms of manners, to the gates of a workhouse and to a low lodging-house, where she is protected by Arthur, who, having encountered her on her way, follows her without her knowledge, and starts from a group of sleeping mendicants. This ends the second act.

In the third act we find Blount getting up a company. Mendez, the Jew, who, in the lodging-house, has become acquainted with the fact that Blount forged the will which deprived Arthur of his uncle's wealth, and that the true will still exists, reappears, and arranges with Blount to secure the latter; but, learning, after Blount's departure, that his only child, Rebecca, has been seduced by Blount, turns from an accomplice into a bitter enemy. The will is concealed in an empty garret; Mendez gets possession of it; Mogg, appearing on the same errand, is pursued by the police. The scene changes to the "housetops," where Mogg escapes from his pursuers by means of the telegraph wire. And so ends the third act. In the last there is a scene in Edith's house where Mogg has taken refuge, and is under the care of his daughter and her lover. Blount enters with the police and denounces him, but is followed by Mendez, and in his turn is himself denounced. The climax to the drama is a tableau based upon Mr. Frith's celebrated picture of "The Railway Station." Blount, whose financial schemes have failed, and who is "looked after" as a forger, is arrested in the train just as Arthur and Edith are starting on their bridal tour. Of course, in this brief sketch of the story, many complications and powerful incidents, and all the details of the plot, are omitted; but enough has been retained to give a fair idea of the amount of invention and skill employed in the construction of the new drama. A wide grasp of life is taken; and if enough excitement to satisfy the most ardent desire for the sensational is not found in it, certainly the care and elaborate ingenuity of the author are not to be pronounced wanting.

"AT MINEHEAD."

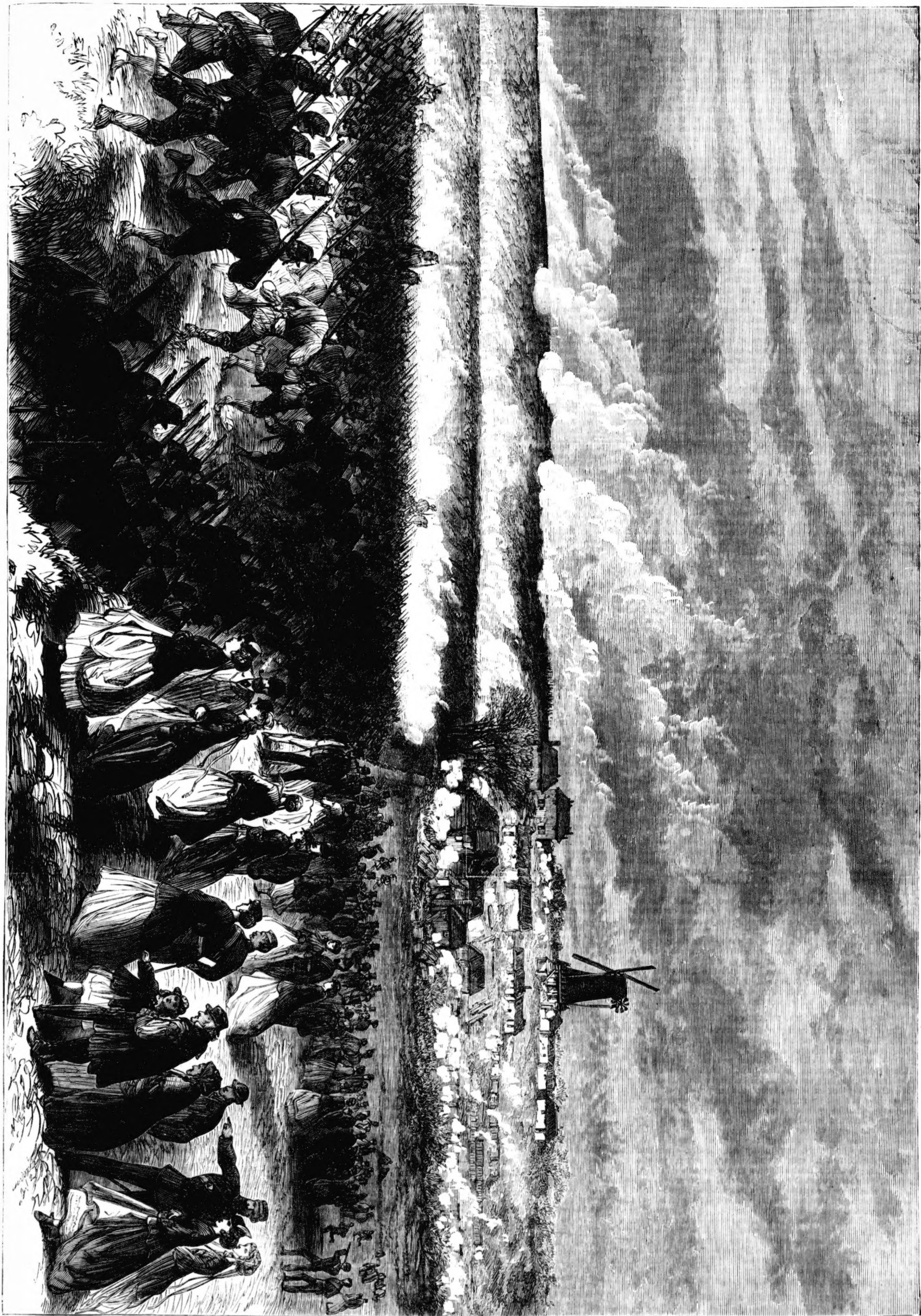
THE picture from which our Engraving is taken very well represents a class of work which will never cease to have charms for the visitors to the Suffolk-street Gallery; and Mr. Syer will be recognised as one of the best exponents of those beautiful "bits" which recall to us all so many pleasant associations. "At Minehead" is one of them; and, though few of our readers may have visited that wild, picturesque, solitary, but beautiful little village, or have looked out thence over the swell of the sea on such a fateful day as that represented in the picture, the scene will remind them of other haunts on the shore where they have spent some of the happiest hours of their lives.



SCENE FROM MR. HALLIDAY'S NEW DRAMA, "THE GREAT CITY," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.



"AT MINEHEAD."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY J. SYER, IN THE EXHIBITION OF BRITISH ARTISTS, SUFFOLK-STREET GALLERY.)



THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT DOVER: THE FINAL STRUGGLE AT GUSTON.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 301.

IRISH DULNESS.

THE House broke up for the holidays on Saturday morning, April 13. It reassembled on Monday, the 29th. It departed tumultuously, like wild schoolboys when the vacation has come; shouting, screaming, dancing—more like wild Indians than English legislators. We shall not soon forget that scene as the members rushed out of the House, like a foaming torrent, on that Saturday morning. It assembled again in the calmest of moods—calm almost to vapidity; and as soon as it had well got together it went to work, if that can be called work which ends in nothing being done. The subject of the evening was the Irish land question—that well-known subject which has been talked about for twenty years; with no result except the exhaustion of our patience—a sort of stolid despair, and a growing feeling that nothing but a revolution can ever settle the question. For seven mortal hours on Monday night this Irish land question was again under discussion, and at half an hour after midnight the debate was adjourned, upon the plea that it had not been sufficiently discussed. The debate on this business was carried on almost entirely by Irishmen, and was of the dullest character—indeed, all Irish debates are now dull. Our readers will no doubt be surprised at this; for there is a general opinion abroad that Irishmen are lively and witty, and that Irish debates cannot be dull. But there are Irishmen and Irishmen; as there are two sorts of Scotchmen, you know: the fervid poetic Scot, like Burns, Sir Walter, and Christopher North, and the anything but fervid Scot, like—well, not to be personal—the typical Scot, into whose head, Sydney Smith said, you could not insert a joke without the help of an auger. And there are two sorts of Irish—the lively, witty, eloquent, blundering Hibernian, and the dull, wordy prosa. Now it happens that most of the former, who used to amuse the House, are gone. Vincent Scully, though on the whole a great bore, used, when in his best mood, to keep the House in a roar. Whiteside did not do much in the way of adding to our knowledge; but he certainly kept us alive by his pyrotechnic oratory. And there was, till lately, a Mr. Morris, who, with his studied jokes and blunders, and Irish brogue assumed for the occasion, was a very amusing bird; but these are all gone, and more besides, of the same kidney. Vincent Scully wants to get into the House, but cannot; Whiteside has given up business as a professional Parliamentary pyrotechnist, and been promoted to the *olium cum dignitate* of the judicial bench as a reward for his long services in the other line; and Mr. Morris has followed Whiteside's lead.

BOUGHT AND SOLD.

This gentleman's history is remarkable; and, as we have not much matter this week, we will shortly give it here. In 1865 Mr. Michael Morris came into Parliament for Galway. He entered Parliament as a Liberal—"a moderate Liberal"—and sat on the Government side of the House. In 1866, when the Liberals went over to the other side of the Speaker's chair, he refused to budge, preferring to change his principles rather than his position—sacrificed his politics to keep his seat. And he promptly got his reward; for this year he first stepped into the attorney-generalship, and in a few weeks, or rather days, he mounted to the bench. Was political profligacy ever rewarded so quickly before? The Irish party now, then, has got to be a very dull party; and on this occasion its talk was intolerably soporific—so much so, that at times it nearly emptied the House. At one time when we looked in there were on the Government side just six members; on the Liberal, twenty-four; and on the Treasury bench only one man—to wit, Lord Naas; and, having given this little fact, we pass on to the proceedings of Tuesday night.

THE MARE'S NEST AGAIN.

No, not just yet; we had forgotten the Dillwyn episode. This trifling affair occurred before we plunged into the Irish land debate; but no matter. It was a mere parenthetic episode, having no connection with what went before or what came after, and will fit in here as well as anywhere else. Our readers will remember what a burst of excitement, lasting for two hours or more, this business excited on the night before the vacation, when Mr. Bernal Osborne brought it under the notice of the House, and revealed to us that conspiracy between Colonel Taylor on the one part, representing, as it was said, much higher persons, and Mr. Dillwyn and Mr. Hibbert on the other part, as self-constituted representatives of the Liberal party. The House got quite excited as Mr. Osborne unrolled his scroll; and when he declared that the ground underneath us was mined, we all felt as if another Guy Fawkes had got possession of the cellars below. But this awful conspiracy, as our readers will recollect, soon burst like a bubble when Disraeli and Lord Stanley disclaimed all knowledge of it, and it was found that Mr. Dillwyn and Mr. Hibbert had no authority, but had acted entirely of their own motion; and they will also remember that, after laughing at the added eggs in the mare's nest, as Mr. Disraeli called it, the House proceeded to more serious business. Well, we thought that we should never hear of this business again. But it was not to be so. Mr. Dillwyn, whilst ruminating upon this subject during the vacation, felt that, though he had been placed conspicuously enough to gratify his vanity, he had cut a rather sorry figure, and he determined, after the vacation, to "set himself right with the House;" and so accordingly, opportunity occurring, he rose. But by this time all had changed. Very small beer before the vacation was this affair at best, although it was stirred up into frothy liveliness by Mr. Osborne's skill; but, after a fortnight, it had become dead and stale small beer, and the House would have none of it. Mr. Dillwyn was allowed to speak; but nobody listened, and nobody replied; and Mr. Dillwyn sank down into the natural position which he occupied before he had been lifted up into a temporary factitious notoriety. Mr. Dillwyn is, no doubt, mortified; but why did he at first meddle with things too high for him? He might have been sure that this great question, on which the fate of Government hangs, could not be settled by subterranean conferences between him and the like of him and a Government whip. Mr. Dillwyn and Mr. Hibbert are both clear-headed, independent, honest men, and useful men, too, in their places; but in this case they wandered out of their depth.

MR. TREVELYAN.

The only event on Tuesday night worthy of notice was a speech of Mr. Trevelyan, son of Sir Charles Trevelyan, whom we know. Mr. Trevelyan is, too, not altogether unknown. He is the author of "The Competitive Wallah" and other works. He came into the House for Tynemouth, for the first time, in 1865. We fancy we have seen him on his legs once or twice before; but on Tuesday he delivered a set speech on a very important subject—to wit, army purchase; and it is not too much to say—indeed, everybody who heard him says—that he achieved a success. At first, he seemed rather nervous; but this is always a good, rather than a bad, sign. It argues modesty, which in a young speaker is absolutely a *sine qua non* to the gaining the ear of the House. The young men who boldly, not to say audaciously, open upon the House, determined to take its attention by storm, may succeed for a time; but in almost all cases they soon lose what they have gained. He that comes to us with a modest air, however—provided always that there is something in him to be delivered—is sure to win attention and encouragement, which begets gradually in him confidence, and then he is sure of success. Mr. Trevelyan proved the truth of this. He gained attention; that begot confidence, and he proceeded to deliver, in a very happy but always unassuming manner, one of the best speeches that we have heard for a long time. Here, then, is another power in the House which we were scarcely aware of before, and we bid it all hail! "The gods mean well to the earth when they send a thinker into it," says a great philosopher. Mr. Trevelyan can think, and utter his thoughts well.

BUNGS, BREWERS, AND BEAKS.

Mr. Graves, of Liverpool, has introduced into the House a measure tending towards free trade in beer, &c.; and on Wednesday morning there was rolled into the House a huge petition, heavier than a man could carry, signed by 82,000 men in favour of this bill. The

measure was introduced at the instance of the Liverpool justices, who, disgusted with the present licensing system, wish to get rid of it, at least in Liverpool. But the bill is to be withdrawn. Mr. Graves feels that it is quite hopeless to expect that the House will pass it, and, on the plea that the Government objects to it because it interferes with the revenue, has withdrawn it. But, readers, this is not the real reason. The real reason is that the publicans and brewers' interest is too strong for the justices of Liverpool, or, as we say here, "the bungs and the brewers have beaten the beaks." Do you see that little man there by the side of the candelabra? He is a small man, is he not? and not a very imposing person. No, not very imposing; but in some matters he is the most powerful man in England. His name is Smith. He is commander-in-chief of the bungs, and has an army under him of thousands and tens of thousands. Indeed, every man in England who has a licensed house is enrolled in his army, and when the privileges of the bungs are in danger, he has only to put his mouth to his trumpet and straightway hosts quartered in every town and village in the land, amounting, as we have said in the aggregate, to thousands upon thousands, rush to his aid. As to the House of Commons on such subjects as this which Mr. Graves has brought before it, the commander of the bungs is omnipotent. Of course, he does not fight with the House. He knows better. He attacks the members separately—that is to say, he instructs the bungs to attack their own members separately, and by this method success is sure, for where is the member who dares to brave the great bung interest in his own town?

Imperial Parliament.

MONDAY, APRIL 29.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION.

The House of Commons reassembled on Monday, after the Easter recess. Lord STANLEY (answering a question from Mr. Horsman) said he had every reason to expect that the proposal to hold a conference in London to settle the Luxembourg difficulty would be accepted by France and Prussia, and he expressed not only a hope, but a strong belief, that the question would soon be amicably arranged. He denied explicitly the report that the Government has expressed any opinion on the question of right. The only opinion they have expressed was in favour of settling the matter by peaceful means, and they had intimated that, in the event of a war, we should hold a position of impartial neutrality.

THE TAYLOR-DILLWYN NEGOTIATION.

Mr. DILLWYN, who had given notice of his intention to ask Mr. Osborne a question respecting the paper he read to the House on the 12th of April, purporting to be the copy of a memorandum of a conversation which Mr. Dillwyn had had with Colonel Taylor, respecting the course Ministers were disposed to pursue with regard to Mr. Hibbert's amendment to the Reform Bill, stated that he had that day received a note from Mr. Osborne, dated "Newmarket," to the effect that it would not suit his arrangements to be in his place until Thursday. Under these circumstances, Mr. Dillwyn contented himself with assuring the House that, in the conversation referred to, no allusion whatever was made to the opinion of Lord Derby on the amendment, adding that when Mr. Brand and Mr. Owen Stanley prepared the memorandum they would have done well and only acted fairly if, before placing it in the hands of Mr. Osborne, they had taken steps to ascertain whether it was or was not correct. As it was, he could only say that it was incorrect alike in form and substance.

Mr. O. STANLEY justified the part he had taken in the matter by declaring that the memorandum was not a private document, and had been used by Mr. Dillwyn with the view of influencing members to vote in favour of the Government. Mr. Osborne requested that he would give him the substance of the document, and the version he furnished him with was, he believed, substantially correct.

LAND TENURE IN IRELAND.

Lord Naas having moved the order for the adjourned debate on the Tenants' Improvements (Ireland) Bill,

Mr. GREGORY moved an amendment to the effect that, without prejudicing the second reading of the bill, it was the opinion of the House that no enactment for the settlement of the landlord and tenant question in Ireland could be deemed satisfactory which did not provide for the encouragement of leases in that country.

A debate ensued, which lasted to a late hour, and was ultimately adjourned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SCOTCH AND IRISH REFORM BILLS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated, in reply to inquiries by Mr. Stapoole and Sir R. Anstruther, that the Reform Bill for Ireland was in preparation, and that he hoped very speedily to introduce the Scotch bill; but it was necessary to make some further progress with the English measure first.

THE LUXEMBURG CONFERENCE.

Lord STANLEY, replying to a question of Mr. D. Griffith, who tried to elicit from the Government whether they had made any suggestion for securing the future political neutrality of Luxembourg, said that all the arrangements relating to the subject would be settled in the conference, which, he had reasonable hope, would meet at a very early date.

PURCHASE IN THE ARMY.

Mr. TREVELYAN called attention to the system of purchasing commissions in the Army. He said the qualification for a commission in the English Army was not skill and knowledge, but the possession of money. The Army could never be, in the real sense of the word, a profession as long as the purchase system existed, for the meaning of the word "profession" was that a man should live by it. The purchase system did not give any inducement to officers to study their profession. It formerly existed in other departments, but had been abolished in them, and why should it find a home in the Army? Was there any reason to believe that the Army would fail to attract a sufficient body of gentlemen if the purchase system were abolished? The Navy did not fail, nor the Church, and why should the Army? One result of the abolition of the purchase system would be to reduce the enormous half-pay list which was kept up in a great measure to compensate officers who could not sell their commissions. He moved that the system of purchasing commissions in the Army tends greatly to diminish the efficiency of our military force.

Colonel SYKES having seconded the motion, Captain STANLEY complained of the want of preparatory training for young men entering the Army, and urged a more extensive promotion from the ranks.

After some discussion, Sir J. PAKINGTON admitted that there were great and serious anomalies in the purchase system; still it was necessary to bear in mind that under that system the British Army had achieved its greatest renown. He thought, however, that it could not be put an end to without something like a general concurrence of public opinion on the subject to justify the expenditure which it would entail on the country. In the course of a few days he hoped to be able to lay upon the table the report of the Committee over which Lord Strathnairn had presided, and which recommended considerable changes in the administrative staff of the Army. Looking at the magnitude of the question, he hoped Mr. Trevelyan would see that, as speaking in behalf of the Government, he had no prejudiced views respecting it; and, whatever might be the decision of the House, he reserved to himself perfect freedom to consider every question, including that of purchase, connected with Army reform.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON joined in the recommendation that the motion should be withdrawn, and expressed himself satisfied with the tone of the speech of the Secretary for War, which he took to mean that among the changes which he contemplated in the organisation of the Army the right hon. gentleman would consider the possibility or expediency of instituting some changes also in the system of purchase.

Mr. TREVELYAN, insisting upon taking the sense of the House on his resolution, upon a division it was negatived by 116 to 75.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GUARDS AND PASSENGERS ON RAILWAYS. Mr. H. SHERIDAN moved the second reading of the Railways (Guards and Passengers' Communication) Bill, the object of which is to give passengers by railways the same facilities for communication with the guards of trains as now exist between guards and drivers.

Mr. S. CAVE did not object to the second reading, but reserved to himself the right of opposing the measure on a subsequent stage unless such amendments were introduced as were requisite to make it effectual. In its present shape it would be most inadvisable to pass it into law. The report of the Royal Commission on Railways would be laid before the House in the course of the week, and if the hon. member found that his bill was inconsistent with the recommendations of the Commissioners and would adapt the provisions of his measure to them, there was no reason why the House should not give it its sanction. The bill was then read the second time.

PUBLIC-HOUSES REGULATION BILL.

The order for the second reading of the Public-houses Regulation Bill was withdrawn, Mr. GRAVES stating that the Home Secretary had given him an assurance that a bill on the subject should be prepared next year.

TURNPIKE TRUSTS BILL.

A long discussion took place on the motion for the second reading of the Turnpike Trusts Bill; and after the second reading it was arranged that it should be referred to a Select Committee.

THURSDAY, MAY 2.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LUXEMBURG.

Earl RUSSELL, seeing the noble Earl opposite (Derby) in his place, took the opportunity of asking what was the present state of matters with respect to the Luxembourg question, and wished for information concerning the conference about to take place in London.

The Earl of DERBY said he hoped shortly to make a satisfactory statement to their Lordships on this question. He could say that Austria, Russia, and England had done their best to avert the dire calamity of war. Her Majesty's Government, however, had taken care not to make any suggestions of their own as a basis of a settlement. The King of Holland had suggested the propriety of holding a conference, a proposition which had been accepted by all the Powers. He was not prepared to say that a fixed basis had been given for the deliberations of the conference, but he had every reason to believe that certain conditions, offensive to neither the national honour of France nor Prussia, would be agreed to by both. The conference would meet on Tuesday next, and he had good grounds for hope that an amicable settlement would be arrived at.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE HYDE PARK MEETING.

Mr. BRIGHT gave notice that to-morrow, in going into Committee of Supply, he would call the attention of the House to the course taken by the Government with regard to the proposed meeting in Hyde Park.

Sir C. RUSSELL gave notice of a question with regard to a resolution passed at a meeting of the council of the Reform League last night after the council had received a copy of the Government proclamation.

Mr. WALPOLE gave notice that to-morrow evening he would move for leave to bring in a bill for the more effectual and better securing of certain Royal parks and gardens for the recreation and enjoyment of her Majesty's subjects.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the proviso at the end of the 34th clause of the Representation of the People Bill—viz.:—"Provided that the rates to be paid by such occupier in order to entitle him to the franchise shall be rates calculated on the full rateable value of the premises," had reference to the third section of the Compound Householders Act (14 and 15 Vict., c. 14), which enacts, "that in cases where by any composition with the landlord a less sum shall be payable than the full amount of rate which, except for such composition, would be due in respect of the same premises, the occupier claiming to be rated shall not be bound to pay or tender more than the amount then payable under such composition;" (2) whether the new compound householder whose vote depends on the occupation of a house rental under £10 would obtain the benefit of the above-mentioned third section of the Compound Householders Act; (3) and whether it was the intention of the Government to subject the compound householders under £10 to a disadvantage which does not apply to the compound householders above £10, by putting them in a different position as regarded getting on the register of voters.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it was not intended to have any reference to the Act 14 and 15 Vict., neither was it intended to place the new compound householder in the same position as the compound householder under the Act 14 and 15 Vict., which he considered a very bad Act. The House went into Committee on this bill.

Earl GROSVENOR, who had given notice of an amendment—viz., clause 3, page 2, leave out lines 4, 5, 6, and 7, to insert "Is on the last day of July then last past, and has, during the whole of the two years immediately preceding, been the occupier as owner or tenant of any house, warehouse, counting-house, or other building being either separately or jointly with any land within such borough of a rateable value of or exceeding £5," said that it would be useless after the late division to proceed with the motion. He, however, reserved the right, if the bill was not made satisfactory, to vote against it on the third reading.

The amendment was then withdrawn.

Mr. AYTON moved, clause 3, page 2, line 5, to leave out "two years" and insert "twelve calendar months." At the outset, he expressed no dissatisfaction with the course taken by the right hon. member for South Lancashire, and went on to say that he had no wish to admit every person to the franchise merely because he was a man. He thought some line should be drawn, and in that respect he was of the same opinion as the head of the Government. He was prepared to accept the statement by the Earl of Derby that those who were so migratory in their character as could not be called residents should not have the franchise. But the question arose, what was a sufficient term of residence? The municipal franchise was acquired by a two years' occupation, undoubtedly; but then immediately after the two years the roll was made up in two months, and the practical enjoyment of the right then commenced. If, however, they proceeded from this to the Parliamentary franchise, taking into account all the circumstances, the period that would elapse between the commencement of the right and the practical enjoyment of it would be three years and a half. He himself was in favour of a six months' residence, but he adopted twelve months as a compromise; and he hoped those opposite would adopt the conciliatory course of accepting the amendment, and not put the House to the trouble of a division.

Sir J. PAKINGTON understood the hon. member to say that a broad principle was involved in this question, and he was sorry the Government could not accept the amendment now proposed. Gentlemen opposite would admit that the Government were making large concessions in proposing to admit to the franchise all who fulfilled certain conditions.

Sir R. PALMER objected to the odious distinction that was made between the new and the old householders, and hoped that they would be placed on the same footing.

Mr. BASS defended those members who had supported the bill from the attacks that Mr. Bright had made upon them, and deprecated the terms "traitors," "dishonest men," and other such epithets which he had applied to them. Mr. Bright had said there was no good in the bill, and Mr. W. E. Forster had said there was a great deal of good in it, and he believed there was. He preferred a bird in the hand to one in the bush, and therefore he supported the bill in order that it might be made a good bill in Committee.

Mr. BRIGHT thought Mr. Bass ought not to be so thin-skinned; and, having referred to the tone of some letter he had written to the newspapers about him (Mr. Bright), said that the hon. member ought to make allowance for expressions used in the heat of debate. With regard to Mr. Aytton's amendment, he thought it would give general satisfaction to the country if it were carried.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL defended the clause, Mr. DENMAN said that if the Government persevered with this clause, the bill would not settle the question of Reform, but would only be the beginning of a renewed contest.

The Committee then divided, when Mr. Aytton's amendment was carried (amidst great cheering) by a majority of 278 to 197.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that, in consequence of the decision the Committee had arrived at, it would be impossible for him to proceed with the bill without consulting his colleagues. He therefore moved that the Chairman report progress, and ask leave to sit again. The House then resumed.

BATTERSEA.—The failure of the main drainage at Battersea seems to be now beyond dispute. Not only are the basements flooded at a depth of 1 ft. 9 in. above the level permitted by the central Board of Works, but it is stated that the mains—in reality reservoirs, instead of sewage conduits—are already in danger of bursting from excess of fluid contents. In a short time other new sewers, leading from Streatham and Putney, will empty themselves into the already charged Falcon Brook main, and require the construction of another, at least of equal size. The inhabitants justly complain that they have paid for efficient drainage, and now find themselves inundated by the very system that was to prevent all flooding.—*South London Press.*

A FAITHFUL MOURNER.—Eight years and a half ago a man named Gray, of whom nothing more is known except that he was poor and lived in a quiet way in some obscure part of the "auld town" of Edinburgh, was buried in Old Greyfriars' Churchyard. His grave, levelled by the hand of time, and unmarked by any stone, is now scarcely discernible; but though no human interest would seem to attach to it, the sacred spot has not been wholly disregarded and forgotten. During all these years the dead man's faithful dog has kept constant watch and guard over the grave, and it was this animal for which the collectors sought to recover the tax. James Brown, the old carver of the burial-ground, remembers Gray's funeral, and the dog, a Scotch terrier, was, he says, one of the most conspicuous of the mourners. The grave was closed in as usual, and next morning "Bobby," as the dog was called, was found lying on the newly-made mound. This was an innovation which old James could not permit, for there was an order at the gate station, in the most intelligible characters, that dogs were not admitted. "Bobby" was accordingly driven out; but next morning he was there again, and for the second time was discharged. The third morning was cold and wet, and when the man saw the faithful animal, in spite of all chastisement, still lying shivering on the grave, he took pity on him and gave him some food. This recognition of his devotion gave "Bobby" the right to make the churchyard his home; and from that time to the present he has never spent a night away from his master's grave. Often in bad weather attempts have been made to keep him within doors, but by dismal howls he has succeeded in making it known that this interference is not agreeable to him, and latterly he has always been allowed to have his way. At almost any time during the day he may be seen in or about the churchyard; and no matter how rough the night may be nothing can induce him to forsake the hallowed spot, whose identity, despite the irresistible obliteration it has undergone, he has so faithfully preserved.

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SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1867.

THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION.

UNLESS diplomacy has lost altogether the power that once belonged to it, there is now some chance of averting the war by which, until the end of last week, Europe was so seriously threatened. Unfortunately, however, very little is proved by the mere fact that a conference is to assemble. A conference before a war is almost as much a matter of course as the shaking hands of pugilists before a prize-fight; and we have not had time to forget that, in spite of conferences from which the best results were expected, the Danish war was entered upon and the Crimean War continued with increased energy. The "question" which has been so near involving France and Prussia in hostilities is, like all "questions" of an international kind, more or less obscure. Unhappily, it has the elements of a fighting "question" in it; for it may be looked at from one point of view, in which Prussia will appear to be in the right, and from another in which all justice will seem to be on the side of France. Prussia, to begin with, has the *prima facie* right given to her by long-continued possession. The fortress of Luxemburg was placed in her hands, in 1814, that she might hold it, in the name of Germany, against France. It is close to the French frontier; it guards one of the most important entrances from France to Germany, and it is, moreover, an important resting-place on the chief line of approach from Northern Germany to Paris;—the line by which the Allies proposed to invade France after Blenheim; the line by which the Allies of a later period actually did invade it in 1792, and again in 1814. The country of Luxemburg is of no great importance to any one but the Luxemburgers themselves; but the value of the fortress can scarcely be over estimated; and the Prussians maintain that now, as during the whole of the last half century, they occupy it in the name and in the interests of Germany. The Germanic Confederation no longer exists; but it was not for the protection of the Confederation as a political form, but for that of Germany as a country, that Luxemburg was entrusted to the safe keeping of Prussia. If Germany was threatened by the enfeebled France of 1814 and 1815, still more is she menaced by her now when France is strong, highly organised for war, and as much convinced as ever that the left bank of the Rhine forms her natural frontier. As for France acquiring rights through the cession of Luxemburg by the King of Holland, the territory is really not his to cede. It belongs to him as Sovereign, but not as proprietor, and is declared "inalienable" by one of the articles of the State Constitution.

The arguments on the French side are already sufficiently well known. They have, indeed, obtained a much fuller hearing than those made use of by the Prussians. The claim founded on purchase may be dismissed at once. The King of Holland has no more right to sell his subjects than they have to sell him. Even if the territory of Luxemburg were not "inalienable," its acquisition by France might be objected to by the Prussians, just as we should object to the transfer of Antwerp to France, and as France would object to the transfer of the Channel Islands to Prussia. France, however, seems to have justice on her side when she objects to Prussia keeping for herself what was intrusted to her as a member of the now defunct Germanic Confederation. Prussia's occupation of Luxemburg is, theoretically, illegal; of that there can be no doubt. Prussia as a member of the harmless Germanic Confederation, which could never be got to move with anything like unity of purpose, was in one position; Prussia as an independent and greatly aggrandised military State, is in quite another.

On the whole, public opinion in England has hitherto inclined more to the French than to the Prussian and German view of the question. Nevertheless, we ought not to forget that a month ago the peace of Europe was not in the slightest degree threatened by the mere fact that Luxemburg was independent and happy, and that Prussia held garrison there, not, indeed, on behalf of the German Confederation, but on behalf of all that part of Germany, and especially Rhenish Germany, which Luxemburg for the last half century has been intended to protect. No one suspects Prussia of wishing to appropriate the smallest portion of French territory; though all along the eastern frontier of France, from Metz to Mulhausen, German is spoken. On the other hand, the whole history of modern France is a struggle to get to the left bank of the Rhine where French is not spoken, and where the French never succeeded in establishing themselves for a longer period than twenty years at a time.

We have a right to congratulate ourselves, and we are bound to congratulate Lord Stanley personally, on the part that England has taken in the negotiations that have lately been

opened in connection with this very difficult Luxemburg question. Our reputation abroad for tact as well as for courage had been seriously damaged by the "muddle-and-muddle" policy of Earl Russell. Lord Clarendon, having nothing of any importance to do, did it like a man of the world, and was succeeded in the Foreign Office by Lord Stanley, at a time when a great European danger was about to arise. If Lord Stanley had played the part assigned to him by one of our journals, which advocates peace at all price—even at the price of involving us at a later period in inevitable war—he would have remained absolutely passive, neither giving nor taking advice from either of the disputants. This attitude would, in our opinion, have been quite unworthy of the Minister of a great country. The fault of Lord Russell was not that he intervened, but that he intervened awkwardly and in such a manner that his advice irritated those whom it ought to have had the effect of soothing. To say that we are to stand by and allow two such nations as France and Prussia to commence a war which would have the effect of deluging all Europe with blood, when, by judicious remonstrances, and by persuading them to go back from the *ultima ratio* to ordinary reason, is to preach a most selfish and immoral doctrine. We are quite aware of the danger that surrounds the part of the peacemaker. He has to call upon both parties to a quarrel to make concessions, and runs the risk of offending both. If we help to turn Prussia out of the Luxemburg fortress, we may, it is true, annoy the Prussians; while, by preventing, or seeming to prevent, France from going in, we may annoy the French. But we have our duty to attend to in this matter, and our duty, as well as our interest, points to the preservation of peace. If by making every possible exertion to secure that end we incur some slight danger, the object we have in view is well worth it. Besides, France and Prussia may not at heart be quite so anxious to fight as they have of late proclaimed themselves to be; and, in that case, both Powers will feel obliged to us for the trouble we are taking to hinder them from cutting one another's throats.

What is most of all to be feared in connection with the conference is that nothing will come of it—or rather, we should say, nothing but war. At this moment it is uncertain on what basis it will be held. The French papers say that Prussia agrees beforehand to evacuate the fortress if the decision of the conference be that her position there is illegal; but we have seen nothing of the kind in any Prussian journal. In fact, all that Prussia has consented to is to hear whatever the other Powers may have to say to her about the Luxemburg question. All we can hope is that their arguments and advice will be listened to with the respect they merit.

PARIS EXHIBITION.—VISITS OF TEACHERS.—The following minute has been recently passed by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education:—1. In accordance with the practice of the Science and Art Department at the International Exhibitions at Paris in 1855 and in London in 1862, my Lords consider it desirable to offer encouragement to the masters teaching in schools of science and art to visit the present International Exhibition at Paris, with the view of studying those objects which may be likely to benefit the instruction given in such schools. 2. Their Lordships therefore announce to the certificated masters now engaged in giving instruction in schools of science and art connected with the department that they will pay to each such master or mistress visiting the Paris Exhibition the sum of £5 in aid of their expenses, and to each an additional sum of £2 for any report or any useful suggestions which any such teacher may make (in respect to his or her duties or teaching) derived from the study of the Exhibition, such report having first been published in any journal, local or otherwise, and afterwards approved by their Lordships. 3. And, further, to each of the three best of such reports referring to instruction in science and to each of the three best reports referring to art my Lords will give respectively the following prizes in addition to the sum above named, namely:—For Science, for the best report, £20; for the second-best report, £15; and for the third-best report £10, and the same sums respectively to the three best reports for art.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The new season programme, just issued, presents, as usual, a great variety of attractions. Foremost among these are nine grand opera concerts on Saturdays in May, June, and July. That these will be of a varied and interesting character, may be gathered from the announcement that, by arrangement with Mr. Gye, of the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, and Mr. Mapleson, of Her Majesty's Theatre, the artists of both Opera Houses will this year appear at the Crystal Palace. This liberal arrangement will, no doubt, be appreciated by the holders of season-tickets. Besides the opera concerts, it is also stated to be the intention of the directors to undertake a great benefit concert, on a grand scale, in June, for which very numerous offers of assistance have been already received. The great flower show of the season will be held on Saturday, May 25; and the rose show on Saturday, June 29. Amongst the novel features of last year's programme none were more successful than the pyrotechnic displays and illuminations of the fountains, and the ballad concerts. They will be resumed this year. Two ballad concerts will be given on May 8 and 20, for both of which Mr. Sims Reeves is engaged; and the first great display of fireworks will take place on Thursday, May 23, the day after the Derby Day. The Dramatic College fêtes will be held, as usual, about the middle of July; and some archery meetings on enlarged and improved arrangements a little later in the season.

THE FENIAN TRIALS.—The Fenian trials at Dublin are now fairly started. On Friday and Saturday last week, the principal witnesses were "Colonel Godfrey Massey" and Lieutenant Corydon. From what has appeared it is evident that the scheme was far more extensive and contrived with much greater skill than had been generally supposed. Colonel Kelly was commander-in-chief, and directed the outdoor operations of the rising; but he has escaped the hands of justice for the present. Corydon, who had been a lieutenant in the Federal Army, stated, in his evidence, that he gave information to the authorities because he did not think the Fenian cause worth shedding a drop of blood for. It was he who apprised the magistrates of the projected attack on Chester. Burke and Doran, the prisoners at the bar, were proved to have been actively engaged in organising the outbreak, and to have taken part in divers overt acts. Mr. Butt, Mr. Dowse, and Mr. O'Loughlin addressed the jury for the prisoners on Tuesday. The only witness for the defence was Mr. Anderson, who stated that a missing document sworn to by Massey was sent by him to Lord Naas, in London, as it would be injurious to the public service to produce it. Mr. Butt denounced this as Star Chamber practice. The Judges were unanimous against him on the point. The Solicitor-General replied for the Crown. Chief Justice Whiteide's charge lasted from ten o'clock till three on Wednesday. At six the jury returned a verdict of "Guilty," with a recommendation to mercy for Doran. Both were sentenced to be executed on the 29th inst. Burke addressed the Court, using strong language, and invoking imprecations on Massey. He and Doran accused the witnesses of perjury.

A SUFFOLK CLERGYMAN AND HIS PARISHIONERS.—It will be remembered that "Brother Ignatius" was introduced to the eastern counties, some four years since, by the Rev. G. Drury, Rector of Claydon, Suffolk—a gentleman who has made his parish and himself notorious by his ritualistic tendencies. For the last four years a very disorderly state of things has prevailed at Claydon. A few weeks since the Needham Market magistrates sent two lads to prison for misbehaving themselves by drinking beer out of a bottle, and being guilty of other unseemly conduct, while in the church. Upon the return of these lads to their homes a number of other boys were ready to receive them, and the party proceeded to the rectory with sticks and staves, and commenced making hideous noises. A night or two since, the church doors having been inadvertently left open, a party of villagers proceeded to ransack the church. A large cross, about 4 ft. high, two flower vases, and four wax candles were taken from the altar. The altars were broken up, and the cross was smashed and carried in fragments about the village. A criminal prosecution will, it is stated, be the upshot of these lawless proceedings.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has signified her intention of laying the first stone of the Hall of Arts and Sciences on Monday, May 20.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES continues to make satisfactory progress towards recovery, and sleeps well. The inflammatory symptoms in the knee joint have greatly subsided.

THE PRINCE OF WALES held a Levée, at St. James's Palace, on Wednesday, on behalf of her Majesty. The presentations were unusually numerous.

PRINCE ARTHUR completed his seventeenth year on Wednesday, having been born on the 1st of May, 1850. There were the usual loyal demonstrations at the Government and other offices. His Royal Highness, who is destined for the Army, entered the Royal Military College at Woolwich early in the present year.

THE KING OF THE GREEKS, attended by Count Rodostamos, arrived at Marlborough House, on Wednesday morning, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales. His Majesty has since left for the Continent.

THE COMTE DE FLANDRES, brother of the King of the Belgians, was, on Thursday week, married to a Princess of Hohenzollern.

THE CORONATION OF THE KING OF HUNGARY is now fixed for June 2.

KING WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA has purchased for 4000 crowns two pictures painted by the Crown Princess (the Princess Royal of England) contributed by her to a bazaar for the benefit of the poor of Berlin.

THE DUKE OF DALECARLIA, youngest brother of the King of Sweden, has been struck with apoplexy. All hope is lost of saving the life of the Prince, who had just completed his thirty-sixth year.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD has given £500 to Mrs. Gladstone's Convalescent Home.

EARL RUSSELL, K.G., will preside at the annual meeting of the British and Foreign School Society, at the Institution in the Borough-road, on May 6.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P., and Mrs. Gladstone and family, arrived at their residence on Carlton House-terrace, on Wednesday afternoon, from Hawarden Castle.

A STATUE to the memory of the late Field Marshal Lord Clyde is about to be erected on the Parade in St. James's Park.

MR. MOFFATT intends, on the motion for going into Committee on the Factory Acts Extension Bill, to move that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

THE LADIES' GALLERY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, behind the Speaker's chair, has been rendered more comfortable; and, by the removal of some unwieldy benches, eight and twenty additional visitors can be secured accommodation. Neat softly-cushioned chairs of artistic design have been substituted for the primitive open benches.

MR. MARTIN F. TUPPER has written a third series of his "Proverbial Philosophy," which will be ready early this month.

THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER officiated at the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of a new parish church in Bolton, on Saturday, amidst a great concourse of people. The occasion was remarkable as displaying the munificence of a local gentleman, who gives £30,000 towards the cost of the edifice.

M. JULES BENEDICT has accepted the conductorship of the Liverpool Philharmonic Concerts, vacant by the death of Mr. A. Mellon.

KIRWAN, the wounded Fenian who escaped from hospital recently, has arrived in Paris, whence he has written to a friend in Dublin.

A NEW STONE PULPIT has been brought into use in Ely Cathedral. The restoration of the great western entrance has been commenced. Dean Goodwin is worthily continuing the work so well begun by Dean Peacocke.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM was visited during Easter week by 28,591 persons. The average in corresponding weeks of previous years was 26,076.

FOUR JAPANESE appeared at the Dover review as volunteers in the ranks of the Artists' corps. They are students in the London University, and have been on several times—once at the Harrow fight. They appeared thoroughly to enjoy the day.

THE TAILORS' STRIKE still continues, neither masters nor men showing any signs of yielding. There is some reason to fear that a general strike of railway engineers and firemen may be undertaken in support of the North-Eastern Railway employees.

THE TEMPORARY BRIDGE ACROSS THE THAMES at BLACKFRIARS is shortly to be closed for repairs and diversions—already delayed by the drainage barricades round the Elephant and Castle—will have to go round to Fleet-street by Southwark Bridge.

A CERTAIN MISS LLOYD, who is the owner of estates in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, and who has a strong objection to criticism, has served a notice to quit on each of her tenants in those counties whose wives or daughters persist in adopting or continuing this particular contrivance of fashion.

A LINE OF STEAM-SHIPS is soon to be established between Hamburg and Spain. At first they are to make monthly trips, touching each way at Lagayro, Puerto Cabello, Santa Martha, and Cartagena.

THE UNITED COMMITTEES of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, the Spanish Abolitionist Society (La Sociedad Abolicionista Espanola), and the Comité Français d'Emancipation, have agreed to postpone the holding of the International Anti-Slavery Conference in Paris until the 26th of August next. The period originally fixed was the third week in June.

THE GREAT EASTERN STEAM-SHIP returned to Liverpool on Tuesday morning from Brest, where she had arrived from New York with only 191 instead of the anticipated 3000 passengers. The enterprise of the French company is a complete failure; and the unfulfilled engagement with the Great Ship Company is said to be likely to lead to considerable litigation.

AN ATTEMPT has been made to introduce the purchase system into volunteer corps. The Adjutant of the Robin Hood Rifles, Captain White, has received a letter offering him £1400 to retire—an offer which was the more tempting as he has completed seven years' service, and is entitled to a pension of 4s. per day. The offer has been refused, and Captain White has announced his intention of recommending the regimental sergeant-major as his successor whenever he may find it necessary to retire from the service.

BUDROODEN TYABJEE, a Mohammedan, was, on Tuesday, called to the bar at the Middle Temple. He is the first person of that persuasion who has been called to the English Bar. The oaths of allegiance, &c., were administered to him in the usual terms, but he was sworn on the Koran. We understand he intends to practice at the bar in Bombay. In that province there are Vakeels who are Mussulmans, but Budrooden Tyabjee will be the first member of the Bar in India who is a disciple of the Prophet.

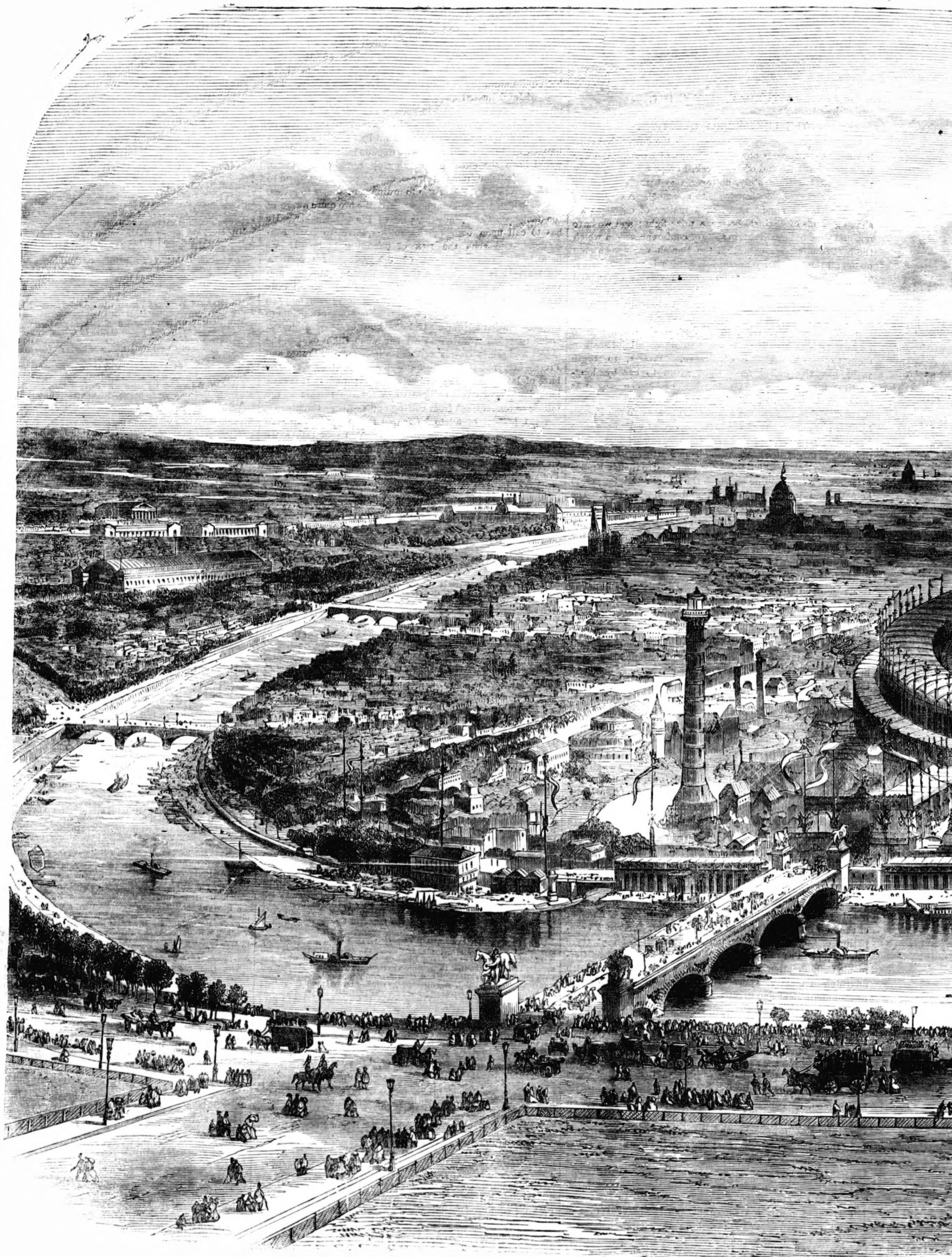
AN EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCE created alarm in Cork some evenings ago. An officer, late of the 13th Light Infantry, rode through the streets in an inebriate state, and into several shops; and at length he had to be dragged off the animal by a number of policemen, who had to give chase after him. He was fined by the magistrates £5 for his escapade.

A REMARKABLE ACCIDENT occurred on a Scotch railway on Monday night. A cattle train from Perth to Edinburgh, consisting of fifty waggon, parted in the middle, and the latter half was precipitated over the Carron Viaduct, a height of 50 ft. Three persons who were in the guard's van escaped with slight injuries, but many of the cattle were killed or had to be slaughtered. The London express-train was detained three hours, in consequence of the accident.

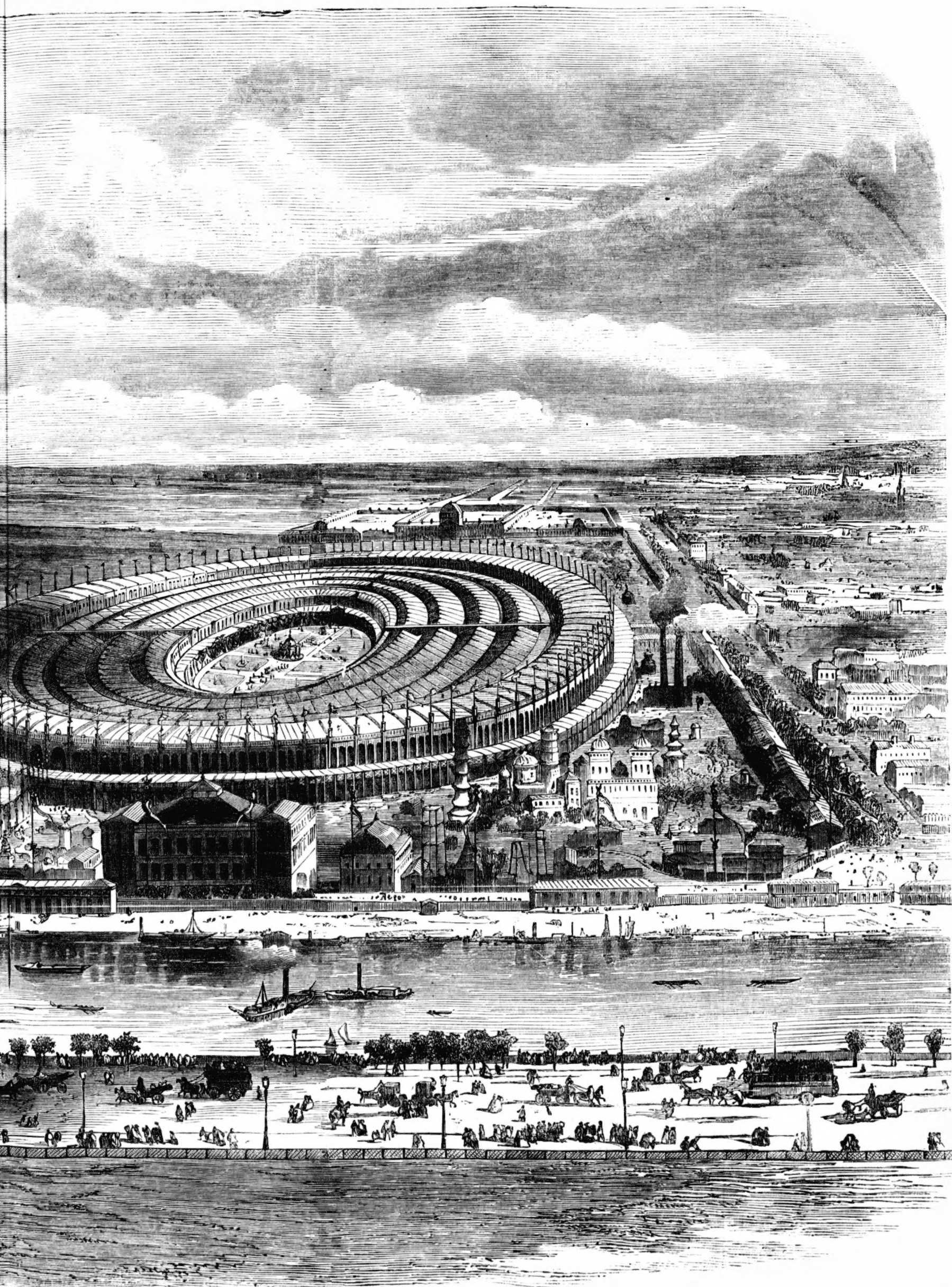
THE CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE recently established in various places promise to be useful to the country population. In Staffordshire the "chamber" has been considering the question of education, and a resolution was passed against employing children under eight years in any field labour at all. In the North Riding a demand has been heard in the "chamber" for a minister and board of agriculture.

M. ANQUETIL, a Frenchman who has lived several years in Burmah, describes a certain specimen of lizard found in that country, which, by its croaking, announces the approach of an earthquake. He thinks that this prophetic lizard might advantageously be acclimatised in Algeria and the West Indies, as the gecko of Ceylon has been in Sicily, Corsica, Spain, and Provence. The Burmah lizard seems to be a variety of the gecko, and M. Anquetil thinks it would be worth ascertaining by observation whether the gecko is endowed with a similar instinct, which would render it invaluable in countries subject to terrestrial commotions.

LAW OF MASTER AND SERVANT.—Lord Elio's bill, which has been printed, proposes that, with the exception presently stated, proceedings between employer and employed for neglect or refusal to fulfil the contract, or on any dispute as to the rights or liabilities of either party under the contract, shall be of a civil character; and instead of an award of imprisonment in the House of Correction, the justices who hear the case are to determine the amount of compensation to be paid by the defaulter; or on non-payment a warrant of distraint may be issued against his goods, or in case of their insufficiency he may be committed to the common gaol or House of Correction for a term not exceeding three months, and at the expiration of the term of imprisonment the compensation is to be deemed discharged. Wages are not to be assessed to the amount of compensation under any warrant of distraint. But if it shall appear to the magistrates on the hearing "that the injury to the person or property of the complainant has been wilfully and maliciously inflicted, so as to amount to a criminal act, and not to be remedied by pecuniary compensation," the case is to be sent to a court of criminal jurisdiction (in England the Quarter Sessions), the punishment to be such as by law is awarded for crimes and misdemeanours of a like nature. Both parties to the contract are to be competent witnesses, except in cases thus remitted to a court of criminal jurisdiction.



VIEW OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION



THE PARK AT THE GREAT FRENCH EXHIBITION.

WE have already published views and a full description of the Paris Exhibition building. We now give an engraving showing the palace and the surrounding grounds as they will be when completed. Under cover of the so-called palace we have a splendid show, but no thing in kind different from what we have all seen before. It is the greatest bazaar the world has ever possessed, and there is an attempt to subject its contents to a more rigid classification than has hitherto been deemed possible, but that is all. The great novelty of the Exhibition is to be found outside the palace, in the surrounding park, where the splendours of the day will be followed by the still more attractive brilliance of the night. Nothing like what is now in preparation has yet been seen; the fame of it when it is ready will ring across the world; and it is reckoned here that throngs will come to enjoy it such as never were gathered together at any previous exhibition. We need not inquire too curiously into the nature of the sentiment which will draw these multitudes together. The first great exhibition was inspired by a magnificent sentiment, and the crowds that congregated in Hyde Park felt in their hearts something of the fire of a new religion. In each successive exhibition we have become less conscious of noble sentiment. Noble sentiment since then has been trampled in gore; and the shouts of jubilee which inaugurated the Exhibition of 1851 have been exchanged in the inauguration of the present one for what has well been termed the *delirium tremens* of Luxemburg. There is no disguising the fact that the sentiment in human nature which the night display of the Champ de Mars will most address is the love of pleasure and excitement. Here is the great metropolis of amusement, and it has been decreed that the grand show in the Champ de Mars, perfect as an exposition of human life in all its varied interests, should be most of all perfect in its representation of Parisian life and its love of amusement.

When we enter the park we find ourselves amid a confusion of structures, the purpose of which it is difficult at first to understand—temples, churches, lighthouses, palaces, cottages, museums, tents, windmills, aquariums, stables, dens for wild beasts, hot-houses, greenhouses, summer houses, theatres, lakes, cascades, fountains, bustings, barracks, caves, grottoes, model farms, letter-boxes, gardens, kiosks, chalets, statues, panoramas, restaurants, numberless, clubs, shops, cloak rooms, telegraph offices, money changing offices, and an infinity of others. It is proposed that this great park should combine within itself the attractions of Cremorne, of the Zoological Gardens, of the Botanic Gardens, of the Polytechnic Institution, and of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham. As day draws to a close, the crowds who are engaged in the building will come out of it to dine in some of the restaurants. This at least is the theory; the practice may be very different, and much no doubt will depend on the reputation which the restaurants can make for themselves as places for dining. Anybody can scramble through a luncheon, and many persons do not want it at all. Dining is a more serious business, and demands what Baron Brisse calls a *cuisine sérieuse*; also let me add a service *sérieuse*. Will the dining-rooms of the Exhibition, not having a *cuisine sérieuse*, and having, through the crush of people, many difficulties and discomforts in the way of service, be able to induce the better class of people night after night to scramble through a dinner instead of going for it into Paris, where one is sure of elbow-room, and quiet, and attention? And, then, if people go into Paris for their dinners, will they make a second journey to the Champ de Mars for the sake of the pleasures it has to offer afterwards? These pleasures, no doubt, are manifold, but they are divisible into classes, and the greater number of them are to be obtained in Paris. What in Paris it will be difficult to obtain is the contrast of opposite sensations. A pretty pair of turtle-doves may be cooing in some sacred bower, and find their cooing rendered more musical by the growling of lions and tigers under the palace of the Bey of Tunis. Or a man may walk out of a theatre where he has been amused with all the revelry of the Parisian notion of life, and he will find another show hard by, the model of a church, where he can gloat upon the wounds of saints and martyrs in wax, and prepare himself by a momentary calmness for another rush into the whirl of pleasure; or he moves about the circle of an open-air concert, smoking a cigar, or playing with an ace, while he listens to farcical songs from the mouths of much beapainted women; and as he quits this musical region, humming a refrain in the patois of Alsace, a grave-looking gentleman will put into his hands a little blue brochure, and beg of him to accept a copy of the Epistles to the Corinthians. We hope we shall not be supposed to make sport of things sacred in mentioning this last fact, which rather forces itself upon one's notice. There is no attempt to preserve harmony of ideas. Things sacred are indescribably jumbled with things profane; orthodoxy and heresy stand side by side, each gloriously indifferent to the other; the terrible and the tender have formed an alliance; sirens and saints have their points of contact; the shows of men are in friendly rivalry with the shows of beasts; and at every turn we step from the sublime to the ridiculous, from nature to monstrosity, from something utterly useless but perfectly useful to something marvellously useful but ugly to the last degree.

There is to be an international theatre, in which performances will be given of the dramas of all nations. Besides this, the Chinese are to have a theatre of their own in connection with a Chinese place of refreshment, where we are promised tea to be served in truly Celestial fashion. There is a grand ballet being organised, in which we shall see the dances of all nations. There is to be a café concert; there are to be bands of music in different parts of the grounds; there are to be fireworks and illuminations; here you drink beer, and there you ask for a demi-siphon of aerated water; three paces further on a man is ready to weigh you with French weights; in the next alley a man is ready to tell you the exact quantity of air you can exhale from your lungs; of course there is a billiard-room somewhere; in the neighbourhood there will be a magnificent stud of wooden horses on whirling-grounds; there are shooting-salons in great number outside the park; if you wish for a ride on a white camel, here are two at your service; and if you prefer an elephant, here are two at your service; and if you prefer an elephant, here are two white elephants. If the evening be warm, here are fountains and cascades, and cool grottoes, and elaborately prepared stalactite caves. If one wishes to escape from the din of the orgies around, there is an immense lighthouse, with the electric light at the top of it, which one can for a consideration ascend, and from which one can look down calmly on the brilliant turmoil beneath. Come down again to the music and the dance, to the clatter of glasses and the glancing of lights, to the growling of the lions and the cooing of the doves; and if, on returning to the lower world, one is inclined to be cynical—to despise such childplay—to utter lamentations over the love of mere animal excitement—there is at hand the model of an ancient temple in which the cynic can give effect to his bitterness. It is the type of a Mexican temple devoted to human sacrifice. It is adorned with horrid grinning skulls, to which the matted hair of the victims still clings. Near the entrance is the altar of sacrifice on which the human victims were laid. The whole edifice, with its pictorial embellishments within and without, rises up in ghastly horror, amid mirth and music; and the cynic who thinks ill of human nature because of all this revelling may, for comfort, mount the steps of the gloomy monument, may hide himself in its dim recesses—may, perhaps, stretch himself on the stone of sacrifice.

Throughout the grounds there are to be many reproductions of architecture, like this Mexican temple. We are all familiar with the sort of work in the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, where in one court we have part of the Alhambra reproduced, giving one a fair idea of Moorish architecture, as in another court we have the reproduction of a Pompeian house. The only structures of this kind which are quite ready are the Mexican temple, a Catholic church, and the palace of the Bey of Tunis. Into the last of these, if we mistake not, there is a free entrance; but the religious edifices, heathen and Christian, are less liberal, and exact a toll from everybody who chooses to go into them, and who is not armed with a season or a weekly ticket. The temples, however, are scarcely worth the trouble of a visit, and we fancy that most people go into

them because they are asked to pay at the door, and in the simplicity of their hearts they imagine that there must be something to pay for. The palace of the Bey of Tunis, on the other hand, is well worth seeing. It is a careful reproduction of the real palace, at a cost of about £6000. The Moorish system of ornamentation is well and minutely worked out in it; beneath it is a cage for lions—Royal beasts worthy of a palace; and beside the den of lions is a café, where Tunisian musicians attempt with guitar and tambourine to assist the digestion of the crowds who flock in to see them. Very shortly some Egyptian edifices will be ready—a palace and a temple.

Mixed up with these places of amusement and reproductions of architecture, there are a number of structures devoted to other purposes, which are more or less interesting. Thus in the park there are no less than four separate picture-galleries, independent of those in the palace. The Belgian gallery within the palace was found to be too small for the pictures of the school. A separate gallery was accordingly built to contain them; and in like manner the Bavarian painters, the Dutch, and the Swiss have each a gallery to themselves. Then there are stables for the Russian horses, kennels for the Russian dogs. There are immense greenhouses and hot-houses in the reserved garden. In the reserved garden the Empress has a pavilion all to herself, and she shares another with the Emperor at the grand entrance. Nearly opposite to the latter is the Surrey cottage. It is built of various materials—specimens of what may be used in building; and it contains illustrations of the various modes of heating and lighting houses. Not far off are barracks to illustrate the most approved methods of housing soldiers. In another structure close at hand are the Armstrong and other great guns. Here is a building raised for the prosecution of photocaligraphy; there is one devoted to the processes of the electrotype. Some of these structures have no great interest attached to them. Others, on the other hand, are sure to be very popular. One of the most popular sights in Paris just now is a large aquarium on the Boulevard Montmartre. In great tanks we see large fish feeding, and fighting, and moving about—monsters of pikes, and conger eels, and lobsters, and crayfish. Still larger tanks are now being built in the reserved garden, and will, in a day or two, be filled with fish, great and small. These will no doubt constitute the largest and most curious aquarium known.

It will take some time before all these outdoor preparations will be anything like complete—fully a fortnight. Much, of course, will depend on the weather. Last Sunday night was to have been the first night of the Champ de Mars. The Empress was to go through some little ceremony to inaugurate the reserved garden; there was to be something of a fête afterwards in the park, and at nine o'clock there was to be a display of fireworks. It rained heavily all the afternoon, and the evening was spoilt for any purpose of pleasure in the open air. But the truth is that, if the weather were perfect, the preparations in the Champ de Mars are not yet sufficiently advanced to afford much variety of amusement to those who may choose to spend an evening there.

The number of entrances into the grounds and building of the Exhibition forms one of the best features in the arrangements. There are a dozen gates of access to the grounds, beside two leading from the waterside, and, most important of all, the entrance from the railway station outside. There are sixteen doors leading from the grounds into the building, so that, happily, there can never be much difficulty in the way of ingress and egress. The agglomeration of edifices in the grounds presents a wonderful spectacle of incongruity, and it takes some time to accustom the eye to the extraordinary want of arrangement. Pavilions in every style of national art assert their independence; while the lighthouse, the church, and the great Egyptian temple, blazing with the colours that were once loved by the Pharaohs, seem to belong to a gigantic box of toys stuck on end, without any attempt at selection, by some infant Polyphemus. The inner garden is now growing into order, and its geometrical divisions will soon be redeemed by lovely blossoms embedding sparkling fountains. It is crossed by broad gravel paths at right angles to each other and in line with the four main avenues of the building, and each of the four gardens thus formed has a long basin for jets of water, surrounded with ornamental plots and borders. One of the great external features of the Exhibition will be the horticultural department, which occupies a corner of the park bounded on the outside by the avenues of Bourdonnaye and Mothe-Piquet, and on the interior by the Rue de Belgique and the outdoor space devoted to the Netherlands. In entering by the Tourville gate at the angle of the two avenues we reach the glass-houses and palm-houses, some twenty in number, while on the left are the shrubberies. The flower-beds are finished, the walks are formed, and the canal which flows through the grounds, with its foundation of metal plates, forms into lakes and cascades at various intervals, with what will eventually be charming effects. These series of water effects terminate in an oceanic grotto, where it is intended that the artificial river will change to sea water in a monster marine aquarium. At about the third part of its course the stream winds for the purpose of supplying the beautiful fresh-water aquarium where the celebrated carp of Fontainebleau are to find a temporary home, and which will be one of the great attractions of the grounds. In the centre of the horticultural gardens stands the monumental greenhouse, an enormous glass structure of such fine proportions and great beauty of decoration that it has already superseded the main building in the regards of the public, especially as it is partially devoted to the repose of the Empress on her visits to the Exhibition.

The lake, which lies just outside this structure, is planned with great skill; and the little white stone pavilion reflected in its waters will be a charming retreat, from which the Empress will be able to look out upon a fairylike scene, where, unless sprites have been banished from the grounds in consequence of being charged at the doors and having to pay 25 centimes before they are allowed to sit down on a mushroom, fairy shallows will glide in and out the little leafy creeks and bays by moonlight. The pavilion itself is a hexagon, lighted by a glass dome and decorated with examples of ceramic art. This retreat will be surrounded by a balcony garlanded with flowers. The entrance will contain an orchestra, where a fine band will play suitable music; and the rooms will be hung with silk in harmony with the sculpture which is to decorate the walls.

NEW VOLCANO IN THE SOUTH SEAS.—The following is an extract from a letter from Mr. J. C. Williams, her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Navigator's Islands:—"A volcano has broken out at sea, at Manua, about two miles from the island of Olooga. It was preceded by a violent shock of earthquake, which commenced on Sept. 5, and on the 12th dense thick smoke rose out of the sea. Lava was thrown up, discolouring the water for many miles round and destroying large quantities of fish. Wherever the ashes fell on the adjacent island they destroyed all vegetation. Up to the middle of November dense smoke was still being thrown up, and my informant says that the smoke rose higher than the neighbouring island, which is over 2000 ft. high. We cannot at present ascertain if there is any bank thrown up in the water. Last July we steamed over the place in her Majesty's ship Brisk, and there were no signs of shoals or anything of the kind."

INVITATION TO THE PRINCE OF WALES.—Below we give a translation of the letter of invitation which has been sent to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales from the Indians of the Red River settlement. The letter itself is somewhat unique, and we doubt whether the mail-bags of any nation ever carried its like. The Indians, who feel a great degree of respect for the Royal family, and with a certain taste for barbaric show and glitter, felt that an ordinary ink and paper invitation would scarcely convey the earnestness of their wish that the Prince should come; so they have sent their request in a style peculiar to themselves. The material on which the letter is written is the fine inner rind of the birch-bark, surrounded with a deep border of gilt. The letters of the heading are in red, white, and blue, the capitals throughout being in old English gilt. The following is a translation of the letter:—"To the first-born of our great mother, across the great waters, great chief, whom we call Royal chief. We and our people hear that our relations, the half-breeds and the pale-faces at Red River, have asked you to come and see them the next summer. We and our people also wish you to come and visit us. Every lodge will give you Royal welcome. We have the bear and the buffalo, and our hunting-grounds are free to you, our horses will carry you, and our dogs hunt for you, and we and our people will guard and attend you. Our old men will show you their medals which they received for being faithful to the father of our great mother. Great Royal chief, if you will come, send word to our guiding chief at Fort Garey, so that we may have time to meet and receive you as becoming our great Royal chief."—*Canadian News*, April 11.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THERE has been a good deal of guessing and conjecturing as to the appointment of a librarian to the House of Commons, vacant in consequence of the death of Mr. Varden, and it has been asserted that the Speaker will give the post to his brother, Mr. Alfred Denison now Speaker's secretary. I do not believe that there is any ground for this assertion. At all events, the appointment has not been made yet; nor will the post be filled up at present. The truth is, the subject of the library is referred to a standing Commission to be considered, and I have no doubt that great alterations will be made in the librarianship, and the emoluments considerably cut down. Mr. Varden had £1000 a year and a palatial furnished house, with coals, candles, and gas. Moreover, he had the indexing of the journals, from which he gained a further considerable sum. Indeed, I should not be surprised to learn that his place was worth £2500 a year. What changes are to be made I have not ascertained; but I conjecture that the house will be taken away and given to Sir Erskine May, and that the duty of indexing the journals will be handed over to the journal office, to which it naturally belongs. With respect to the salary, I should fancy it will remain at £1000 a year, and a noble salary this is. How would some of our accomplished but not sufficiently remunerated literary men jump at such a place! Rumour says Mr. Woodward, the Queen's librarian, is a candidate. There is, though, a Mr. Howard acting as sub-librarian. He is an accomplished gentleman, has had long experience, and is, in short, in every way fitted for the post. Why, then, should a stranger leap over his head? If justice be done, Mr. Howard will be the man.

Whilst I am writing, Gladstone's absence from the House during Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, is causing much talk and more silent conjecture. Some say he is in Paris. He is one of the jurors in the Ceramic Department, you know. Others affirm that he is ill; whilst not a few declare that, like the great Achilles, he is sulking at home. Some of the rebellious twenty-one, it is said, are repentant, and are exclaiming, or might exclaim, in the words of one of the original poems by Miss Taylor,

O, if he would but come again,
I think I'd vex him so no more!

But, on the whole, the temper of the Liberal party is not reassuring. There is still great laxity of discipline, and much dissatisfaction, threatening mutiny lurking in the breasts of not a few. It seems that a good deal of smouldering discontent with Gladstone has existed ever since he deserted his party on the church-rate question, on flogging in the Army, and on Coleridge's bill for opening up the University of Oxford to the Dissenters. "The least he could have done was to stop away," say the grumblers; "but he ostentatiously rushed in to vote against us. Why should he be angry with us for deserting him, when he so shamefully deserted us?" I am sorry for all this, as I am sure you know; but as a faithful chronicler I must mention it. I think it all wrong, utterly wrong. Do these grumblers mean to say, "We deserted Gladstone because he deserted us?" Surely this is bad statesmanship, and certainly it is bad morality. To me it appears mere petulance. It would, too, be well to remember that on many subjects—certainly on two out of the three mentioned, Lord Palmerston often voted against the Radical portion of his followers; but when a crisis came they always rallied round him. And is not Gladstone, for integrity, eloquence, true liberality, &c., worth a dozen Palmerstons? To my mind, he soars as far above that nobleman, in all that constitutes a great statesman, as your true statesman does above a mere dextrous, shifty, and by no means over-scrupulous tactician. If a leader is bound to support on all occasions his follower, there can be no leader of the Liberal party; but still, it is not to be doubted that on open questions like those mentioned it would be well for the leader not to vote against his party. Both leaders and followers must make some concessions.

"If Spring Rice would go into holy orders," said Sydney Smith, "great would be the joy of the three per cents." After the Hyde Park business, and the Toomer business, I think we may say that if Mr. Walpole would retire to the House of Lords, and Mr. Justice Shée to his Tusculum, or what not, great would be the joy of those who wish to see the Home Office and the Judges invariably respected. As an Englishman, I think I am prouder of the great Judges than the great Captains; but the Toomer story reads like a *mauvaise plaisanterie* from beginning to end. Mr. Walpole's reasons for advising the Queen to let the man go after he has suffered several months' imprisonment for a crime he did not commit (he did an immoral thing, but he committed no crime at all—i.e., he broke no penal law) remind me of the old story of the Irishman's three pleas in defence of the action on the broken jug:—"First, it was broken when we had it; second, it was whole when we returned it; third, we never had it at all." Or, again, of the Yankee spouter's account of his education:—"Friends and feller citizens! I never had but three nights' schooling in my life. First night, teacher didn't come; second night, I didn't go; third night, there was no candle." By-the-by, at the time of the Hyde Park riot, I overheard Lord A. say to Lord B, in Westminster Hall, "If Walpole doesn't take care, we shall have him sent up to us!"

An appeal for public help has been made by the friends of the late Mr. C. H. Bennett on behalf of his destitute family. The letter addressed to the newspapers on the subject says:—

Mr. Bennett had worked as artist and writer for the instruction and amusement of the public (and especially for that of the young) for about twenty years, and none who are acquainted with English art need be reminded of his extraordinary talent. This, however, did not become largely remunerative until a late period, when the artist was surrounded by a numerous family, and at the time of his sudden and premature death (thirty-eight) he had not had time to make provision for his widow and children. But he has left no debts whatever. Unhappily, the extreme delicacy of his constitution prevented assurance offices from accepting so fragile a life, or this appeal would never have been made. Mr. Bennett leaves a widow and eight children, and the number of the latter will shortly be increased. They are entirely without resources. The assistance of friends has not been wanting, nor will any effort to obtain aid from the funds available in such cases be omitted. But the necessities of the case demand appeal to a larger circle, and Mr. Bennett's friends reluctantly adopt a course which, had his life been spared but a few years, would have been needless. Contributions will be received by Messrs. Glyn, Mills, and Co.; the Rev. Charles Kingsley, Eversley, Winchfield; Mr. Mark Lemon, Punch Office, Fleet-street; Mr. J. Everett Milnes, 7, Cromwell-place, South Kensington; Mr. Shirley Brooks, 6, Kent-terrace, Regent's Park; Agnew and Sons, Manchester, Liverpool, and London; Bradbury, Evans, and Co., Whitechapel.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The clergyman who came to the font tipsy and could not find the place, said the poor baby was difficult to baptize. Oh! Sir, I wish I lived in America, down east, or somewhere, where an editor who has got the toothache does not hesitate to issue his paper with nothing in it but the advertisements and a notification that he is not going to write anything this week. For, Sir, I am dull, dull, dull! suffering from spring influenza, and shall find the magazines very difficult to review. This majestic study-table, fretted with monthly magazines seems to me only a foul and pestilent congregation of papers (some correspondent will write and tell me that I have forgotten my "Hamlet"). Praising delights not me—no; nor cutting up neither; though by your smiling you seem to say so. Yet, what a piece of work is a literary lounge! The polygon of animals, the heir of all the ages, in the foremost files of time; and, what is more, as pretty a piece of flesh as any in Messina—go to! Another correspondent probably a lady, will write and say that I have mixed up Shakspere, Tennyson, and Mrs. Malaprop.

But that shall not prevent my observing that the admirers of Shelley may indulge some hopes of having, at last, a trustworthy likeness of the poet to turn to. If his son, Sir Percy Bysshe Shelley, will only listen to the suggestions made to him in certain quarters, we may expect to find accessible to us before long an authentically engraved copy, or a photograph, or both, of the only picture of Shelley in existence that can be called a portrait. We shall be glad to get out of our heads that absurd little bust of a female saint, with her shirt-collar blown open, her hair streaming in a sou'-wester, and a long quill-pen in her right hand—the image which, for so many years, has stood for the poet in the popular mind.

Most admirably edited as the *Cornhill* is, I never saw a better number than the present one. The magazine has not the same character of its own that it had in its first—its Thackeray—days; but it has a character of its own, and that character is more evenly kept up than the first, or Thackeray, character of the magazine used to be. Mr. Thackeray's unwillingness to refuse people who had any "pull" of him, often led to the insertion of very poor stuff in the midst of tip-top matter. But you very rarely see anything in the *Cornhill* nowadays but what is really good. That degree of praise, at least, belongs to the new little story "Stone-Edge," with its charming picture by Mr. Lawson; also to the well-managed paper on the "Fleet Marriages," which discloses a good deal of quiet humour. Above all, to the essay on "Blank Verse," to which I may, perhaps, return.

The only magazine paper of equal rank which catches my eye at once is that in *Macmillan* on "Elementary Principles in Art." The article on "French Religious Memoirs" is felicitous and interesting, but the author has not caught the most serious objection to the class of so-called "religious" books in this country to which he refers. I never heard any quarrel with a religious diary or memoir on the score of mere delicacy; the objection to the majority of such books lies in the fact that their compilers have no sense of moral proportion, and so jumble up discordant things. And then, you know, we have a "Margate hoy" advertised for "those friends of the dear Redeemer who are in the habit of visiting the Isle of Thanet"; or that advertisement, which I saw myself, for "a curate" who was "Evangelical and could play the piano;" or that other, which I have only read of—"Wanted as porter in a warehouse, a stout, active man, who is a member of a Christian church, and can carry at least 6 cwt.!" These are hackneyed instances, but I quote them because they are safe for quotation on that very ground. Other instances less familiar might look profane. *Macmillan* contains also a good article on "Social Disintegration."

The *Gentlemen's Magazine*! I might as well review St. John's Gate or Dr. Johnson's chair. But it is as well to say that Mr. Henry King-ley begins a bright rapid, new story in the April number. Here, again, is a case in which the editor is the right man in the right place, so that a good magazine keeps up to the mark year after year.

The new comer, the *London*, would have been better without the words on the cover "a first-class magazine." At the story "Roger's Wrong" I have not yet looked; but the essays and sketches are good. The "Railway Adventure" is, as Mrs. Brown would say, "quite apperapo." The magazine is a very taking sixpennyworth, and I have nothing to say against it, except that it wants a special design or character, and that it wants what I have before called ozone. I shall, perhaps, have another word to write upon it; but, in the meanwhile—I must take a vapour-bath, and go to bed!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Wallack's "Wild Goose," edited (whatever that may mean) by Mr. Bonicault, was produced at the Haymarket on Monday last. It seems to be entirely out of place in that theatre: it belongs to a class of drama once identified with the Surrey and Victoria. It is very loose in construction, if, indeed, it may be said to have any construction at all. The story, such as it is, is told in five long acts, and each act contains two or three scenes. To tell the plot at length would be both unprofitable and impossible; but it may be briefly summed up as follows:—Richard Develin, a smart, dashing, dare-devil cavalry officer, of the Harry Lorrequer type, sets to work, in company with a Squire Bubb to root out a mystery connected with the disappearance of a baby Baronet, whose uncle and guardian, a wicked Colonel, has consequently succeeded to the title and estates. Develin eventually discovers that the wicked Colonel has bribed a still wicked gipsy to kidnap the child, who is eventually discovered in the gipsy camp, to the utter confusion and dismay of the Colonel, who is thus ousted from the estate and the title. There is an underplot, which treats of the loves of the Baronet's mamma—a blooming widow—and a country apothecary. It will be seen that these materials are not altogether new; and any other dramatist than Mr. Wallack would probably have found some difficulty in spreading them over five acts, even with the addition of a certain amount of unimportant "fringe," to which I have not referred. There is not one good part in the whole piece; the nearest approach to one is, of course, Mr. Sothorn's Develin, which he played as well as it could be played; but the part afforded him very little scope for any display of his peculiar powers. He was easy and gentlemanly throughout, but in no way remarkable; and when I say that he played it as well as it could be played, I should add that, in my opinion, there are at least four actors in London who could have played it quite as well. I don't say this to detract from Mr. Sothorn's undoubted merit as an eccentric comedian, but simply to imply that the part was an easy one to play well, but one in which it would be almost impossible to make a "hit." Mr. Buckstone as Squire Bubb a country gentleman of the old stock—Conservative brass-button-and-mahogany-top type—was Mr. Buckstone. Mr. Buckstone possesses the invaluable faculty of endowing everything he says or does with a humour of his own, entirely independent of any comic merit that it may owe to its author. In this case, it owed nothing whatever to its author. Miss Hill, as the blooming widow, was overweighted. This lady is a very excellent soubrette and a good burlesque actress, but she is scarcely equal to the responsibility with which she is charged in this piece. Mr. Walter Gordon played a young doctor in a gentlemanly, unassuming manner. In my opinion, the best piece of acting in the whole piece was Mr. Rogers's embodiment of the scoundrel gipsy. This gentleman is one of the most conscientious actors on the stage. His "make-up" is always characteristic, without being exaggerated, and there is a vein of quiet fun underlying his stolid exterior which has not yet been fully appreciated. But, *per contra*, I may be permitted to remind Mr. Rogers of a fact which appeared to have escaped him on the first night—viz., that ten months are supposed to elapse between the second and third acts; and that a black eye received in (say) July would hardly last until the following May. Mr. Howe played the wicked Colonel with his usual care; and Miss Burke, Miss Sidney, Mrs. Laws, and Master F. Charles, contributed to such success as the piece contrived to achieve. That the "Wild Goose" will be very long in the bill I cannot suppose; but curiosity just now is life concerning Mr. Sothorn's powers, and I dare say the piece will repay the management for its reproduction. The scenery is excellent.

Mr. Burnand's burlesque, "Olympic Games," at the OLYMPIC THEATRE, is not a dramatic triumph. It treats of the loves of Mars and Venus, the sleepiness of Alectryon, the jealous rage of Jupiter, and the punishment of the sleepy-headed boy by Mars. Mr. Burnand has contrived, with his usual ingenuity, to spin this meagre story into a burlesque that plays about seventy minutes and involves fifteen different characters. Mr. Burnand's jokes are very poor, and he has not been as happy as usual with the selection of his music. The piece is played with as much spirit as Miss Farren, Miss Louisa Moore, Miss Sheridan, and Mrs. St. Henry, could contrive to infuse into it. Mr. Dominick Murray had a very bad part as Minerva, and made nothing whatever of it. Mr. Montague played Mars in a manner to justify the conclusion that this very excellent representative of young gentlemen is wholly out of his element in low comedy. It is difficult to understand how he ever came to be cast for the part. I should as soon have expected to find Mr. R. Romer playing Columbine. Miss E. Farren, as Alectryon, was as saucy, and at the same time as charming, as she always is; and the same remark (with a little modification to suit his sex) may apply to Mr. Vincent, who played Vulcan. Mr. Jerrold Reeves played a small part (Æsculapius) with much quaint humour. The scenery is good, but hardly up to the usual Olympic mark.

I find some difficulty in handling "Idalia," Mr. Roberts's dramatic version of "Ouida's" novel, produced at the St. James's on Easter Monday. I can't make head or tail of it. I only know that a magnificent Italian Countess (who, I think, kills all her lovers, one by one) is loved by a young Englishman, whom she wants to spare;

that she is haunted by a mysterious Court Falcon, who is supposed to be her lover, but who is really her father; that the Englishman comes somehow to be trusted with important political despatches, of which it is necessary that Count Falcon should obtain possession; that, in endeavouring to possess himself of them he shoots the Englishman, who, however, does not die; that a comic officer and a fat lady have every other scene to themselves without at all affecting what plot there is; and, lastly, that the battle of Solferino takes place; that Count Falcon, Idalia's father, is killed, and that, in consequence, all ends (somehow) happily. I give the plot precisely in the jerky manner in which a reference to the playbill suggests it to my mind. The piece is a bad piece; there's no doubt about that, I'm afraid; but it is very capably acted. Miss Herbert, as the magnificent Countess, had a part which, in its abstract nature, entirely suited her, and she did it far more than justice. Mr. Irving's Count Falcon was an excellent piece of acting, and his "make-up" was singularly good. He was quiet and impressive in a part which a less conscientious actor would have vulgarised by declamatory rant and exaggerated action. Mr. Stoye and Mrs. Frank Matthews were amusing enough in two dreadfully bad parts; and Mr. Charles Wyndham (from the Royalty) played the young Englishman with gentlemanly repose. The piece is very carefully mounted.

The Japanese troupe are again performing for a short time at St. Martin's Hall, previous to leaving London; and on Wednesday afternoon Kosakichi, the leader of the troupe, who injured his hand in the journey from Japan, and who in consequence has hitherto been unable to perform, made his first appearance, and went through a variety of extraordinary evolutions, such as dancing on the silk cord, &c. Kosakichi's performance is likely to become a prominent feature in the exhibitions of the Japanese party.

AMATEUR THEATRICALS.

I was present at the first performance of an amateur dramatic company (The Charitable Thespian) at the Gallery of Illustration, Regent-street, on Saturday evening last, in aid of the St. Saviour's (Maida-hill) Schools Building Fund. The performances commenced with the farce of "No. 1 Round the Corner;" after which a cleverly written prologue was spoken by the author, Mr. E. Roberts, F.S.A. This was followed by the drama of "The Porter's Knot," in which Mr. J. E. Thirist's delineation of the character of Samson Burr was distinguished by a completeness which took the audience by surprise. Mrs. Leigh Murray and Miss Ida Severn enacted the parts of Mrs. Burr and Alice; and the other characters were tolerably well sustained. The entertainments concluded with the burlesque of "Fra Diavolo," which kept the risible faculties of the audience in a state of incessant action. The attendance was both numerous and fashionable, and I should say that there is little doubt but that the school fund has received a large addition.

The industrious gentlemen of the 1st Surrey Rifles' Dramatic Club gave their third entertainment, this season, on Tuesday evening last, at head-quarters, Brunswick-road, Camberwell. Owing to the perversity of the gas in refusing to be lighted, the performance was considerably delayed; but the curtain eventually rose on Mr. Pelham Hardwicke's comedy, "A Bachelor of Arts." The part of Harry Jasper, the hero, was well sustained by Sergeant Fourdrinier, in which character he received the well-merited honour of a "call." Private J. T. Macrone must be congratulated on his clever rendering of the lawyer, Andrew Wylie; while Mr. Thornton was feelingly played by Private Dix. Miss Austin, as Emma Thornton, did not please me; the part is totally unsuited to her. The other characters were sustained by Miss Harvey, Private W. W. Goss, and Corporals Duthoit and Rowe. The next, and concluding piece was Mr. John Maddison Morton's farce "The Irish Tiger," the success of which rested almost entirely with Private J. T. Macrone, as Paddy Ryan. In the part of Nancy, Miss Austin was evidently in her element. The minor parts were filled by Miss Harvey, Ensign R. A. Puckle, Sergeant Lewin, Corporal Rowe, and Private H. A. Miles. A portion of the Coldstream Guards' band attended, and played a variety of well-selected airs. As a whole, the entertainment was one of the best amateur performances I have had the pleasure of witnessing for some time.

FINE ARTS.

THE FRENCH AND FLEMISH EXHIBITION AND THE OLD AND NEW WATER-COLOUR SOCIETIES.

THE near approach of the "first Monday in May" admonishes us to clear off our arrears of art-criticism, and we must therefore rest contented to combine our notices of three exhibitions, of which we might otherwise be compelled to postpone all mention indefinitely.

The foreign exhibition has this year, to borrow the rather invidious language of the leading journal, passed from "the intelligent control" of Mr. Gaubart into "the hands" of Mr. Wallis. The selection of pictures is the best we remember to have seen. There are so few inferior works that the shortest though not the fairest, way of disposing of the gallery would be to name them. The new manager has secured a general and high order of excellence, and does not seem to have followed his predecessors' custom of attracting attention by a sensation picture—some well-known work like the "Phryne," for instance—with which the public has been familiarised by photographs.

Alma Tadema is represented by two canvases. "The Honey-moon in the Reign of Augustus" (2) is admirable in drawing and colour, but the face of the woman is unnecessarily plain, and does not seem to be of the Roman type at all. "The Visit of Tibullus to Delia" (1) pleases us far more. The easy attitude of the favoured poet is capital, and the faces of the other visitors to the fair dame are full of expression and character. Of course the details are accurately worked up, and the whole effect is thoroughly real. Contrasted with such a reproduction of ancient life, the quasi-classicality of Coomans—in "Le Jeu d'Orca" (29), for instance—falls rather tamely, but there is merit as well as prettiness in the picture; as there is pleasing colour, over and above the quietness, to recommend Levy's "Idyll" (104), another classical subject.

The mediæval style of Baron Leye and his school will form a fitting borderland between these classical subjects and the modern life which Frère and Duverger depict. The Baron is represented by but one picture, but it is a very excellent example. In "The Proposal" (107) we have all the good qualities, as well as the faults and peculiarities, of this great painter. Lagye, his pupil, is seen to advantage in his "Faust and Marguerite" (112), and De Vriendt in his "Return of the Crusader" (54). The pictures of this school, however, though remarkable for many technical excellences, lack lifelike expression and human interest, which the highest and best art should not miss.

Gerome's "Louis XIV. and Molière" (82) is a fine picture, full of character and point. The figure of the offended ecclesiastic on the left is truly admirable. The way in which a perfect bouquet of bright colours has been so harmonised and combined as to delight the eye without dazzling it, may be commended to the study of our native painters of garish crudity, Mr. Ward among the number. Gallait's "Art and Liberty" (80) is a small work, but abounds in merit. Koller's two pictures are painted with extreme finish and delicacy. "The Stirrup Cup" (94) pleases us less than "Albert Durer" (93), a really exquisite composition. The dignity of the great artist's figure and the grace and refinement of the female figures are above praise. Carand's "Louis XVI. and the Locksmith" (31) and "Le Petit Trianon" (35) are very pleasing works; and there is a good example of Serrure, "In a Country Auberge" (153). Ruinerce's "Orange-seller" (135) is a little gem. Vibert is represented by eight or nine canvases; and they one and all vindicate the artist's right to this lion's share of space. "The Engraver's Studio" (191) is a picture before which we could spend hours. Though the subject is simple enough, there is plenty of character in it; and the painting—of the soft light diffused through the engraver's screen, for instance—is truly marvellous.

The two Frères, with Thom, the pupil of the elder, are seen to advantage here. "The Reprimand" (73), by Edouard Frère, is a good example of the exquisite skill and fine harmony with which a

slight theme may be rendered charming. Duverger's "First Communion" (48) is a fine work, De Jonghe's "Confidence" (56) a pleasing one, and high praise is also due to the pictures of Lobouen, Plassan, Fleury, Bakkerkorf, and Hoguet. "The New Toy" (165), by Stevens, is noticeable for the wonderful painting of the girl's dress. "In the Bois de Boulogne" (208), by White, is also deserving of commendation.

The Bonheur family is well represented. Auguste Bonheur's "Cattle on the Welsh Mountains" (10) is a splendid picture; and the famous Rosa Bonheur is seen to advantage in "The Forest of Fontainebleau" (12). Schreyer's horses are always full of life and action. His best work in this exhibition is "Horses Escaping from a Fire" (150). De Noter and Knarren work admirably together in a charming picture of "Autumn Fruits" (59).

The best landscape of the year—one of the finest, indeed, that it has been our fortune to see in any modern exhibition—is Troyon's "Ferry-boat" (179). The light of the rising sun, which floods the scene, has never been so faithfully painted since Turner's time. Daubigny and Laminet are represented by pictures which are worthy of the high repute in which they are held; and Girardet, Le Poitevin, Ludwig, and Koekkoek have furnished good examples of their respective styles, and assist in making the French and Flemish Exhibition of this year remarkable for a high and general excellence.

The Society of Painters in Water Colour—the Old Society—is not above the average this year in its exhibition. Mr. Burne Jones and the lady associates contribute their share to the show; and it takes all that Messrs. Walker, Watson, Snields, Lamont, Haag, Foster, Burton, and Gilbert can do to counteract this influence. Of Mr. Jones's pictures we can only say what has been said over and over again already without in the least effecting an improvement. Occasional bits of nice colour cannot compensate for defective drawing and deliberate ugliness, for compositions which are not so much eccentric as silly and affected, and for an utter vacuity of expression in the faces. It would be well, perhaps, if Mr. Jones were occasionally to paint flesh from some other model than the unwashed street Arab, whose grimy skin alone could inspire such brown nudes as will be found in "Cupid and Psyche" (132). Mr. Walker exhibits two subjects—a study for one of the illustrations to "The Village on the Cliff" (299), and a finely-drawn "Fisherman and Boy" (245), painted in his best style. Mr. Watson has but one picture on the walls, "Country Quarters" (64), wherein a gallant trooper is winning the glances of a village belle as he carols, while furbering up his harness, to kill time. Mr. Shields is most successful in "Dimple's Meal" (13), though there is some good work in "Sounding a Retreat" (71). Mr. Lamont is very nearly being a great painter. If he can but give his figures solidity without losing air and colour in his pictures, he will take high rank. At present there is a finisness and transparency about his people, for which his delicate eye for colour and sound drawing cannot compensate. His best work this year is "Charles Surface" (29). Mr. Smallfield is very unequal. His "Seven A.M." (182) is utterly unworthy of the painter of "The Marmouset" (175) and "The Exiles" (204). His "Kelpie" (270), pleasant enough in colour, must have been painted from a stage fairy standing behind a gauze border. Mr. Lundgren disappoints us this year. "From Cairo" (157) wants the vigour and brilliance which usually mark his work.

Mr. Birket Foster seldom or never does himself injustice. His "Way Down the Cliff" (249), and "Old Breakwater" (150), are painted with his accustomed skill and grace. Mr. John Gilbert is another artist who is generally true to himself, and tolerably constant to his range of subjects. This year he once more finds a theme in the pages of "Don Quixote" (20), and shows the poor but honest knight being disarmed by fair esquires. Mr. Carl Haag's "Happiness in the Desert" (117) is worthy of his fame—need we say more? Mr. Burton has seldom surpassed "Shireen" (223), and Mr. Topham has not often given us anything so good as "By the Fountain" (131). Mr. Brittan Willis exhibits some splendid cattle-pieces; but he must look to his laurels, for in Mr. Basil Bradley's "Oxen Going to Plough" (99), and "Tilling the Ground" (181), there are evidences of great power. Mr. Bradley has attracted some notice as a wood-draughtsman. We are glad to meet him in this new walk of art.

Among the landscapes we are inclined to give the palm to Mr. Hunt's "November 11th" (16), for its splendid realisation of light and atmosphere. Mr. Boyce is as good as ever. His "Devered Colliery" (120), is especially fine. Mr. Naffel, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Newton, and Mr. Davidson all exhibit good specimens of their powers; and there are capital examples of the painting of Mr. Branwhite, Mr. Rosenberg, and Mr. Samuel Read. Mr. Darby (a new member, if we mistake not) exhibits a fine view of "Mount Arran" (41). Messrs. Duncan and S. Jackson ably uphold the credit of marine-painting in the society.

The Institute, or "New Water-Colour," comes out strongly this year, with some remarkable pictures by honorary members no less distinguished than Mmes. Henriette Browne and Rosa Bonheur and Messieurs Gallait and Madou. Rosa Bonheur's contribution is "A Highland Lake" (52), with a boatload of sheep upon it. M. Gallait contributes the finished studies for "The Oath of Vargas" (55) and "The Sentence of Count Egmont and Horn" (49), pictures which exhibit some years since at the French Gallery.

Mr. Edward Corbould goes this year again to the Idylls for a subject. "The Fight for the Great Diamond" (211) gives full scope for the exercise of his undoubted powers, and is full of life and vigour. Mrs. Elizabeth Murray contributes one of the best figure-subjects in the gallery—"A Spanish Milk-stall" (9). Her "Autumn Leaves" (114) is also remarkably clever. Mr. Bach exhibits three fine works, of which perhaps "Avenge" (152) is the best. Mr. Jopling's "Elsie Venner" (264) is rich in colour and well drawn; but is not the left leg a little too blue? Mr. W. Thomas's three pictures show his usual brilliancy of colour. We think "Welcome" (162) the best of the trio. Mr. Cattermole exhibits several capital pictures, among which it is hard to choose. Mr. Bouvier is a large contributor. "La Belle aux Cheveux d'Or" (83) is the best thing we have seen of his for some time. Miss Farner has this year taken courage to exhibit a large picture, "The Primrose-seller" (95), in which she has achieved a very fair success. Mr. Linton is an acquisition to the society, and will not fail to prove the wisdom and justice of his election. His single contribution (266) is full of grace and beauty, with a delicate feeling and considerable poetry to compensate for some very trifling oversights in the matter of perspective. We cannot but think that Mr. Fidey occupies a little too much space this year. It is a pity he should exhibit such a picture as No. 2.

Mr. Hine is a large contributor. Every one of his pictures is a delicious study, and all are so good it is impossible to select one for especial mention. Mr. Carl Werner and Mr. Vacher exhibit Eastern views. The former is seen, perhaps, to the best advantage in "Thebes" (33)—a noble picture. The latter's most striking work is "The Wanderer" (214). Mr. Haghe, Mr. Warren, Mr. M. Kewan, and Mr. Hargett contribute ably to the credit of the exhibition, as does also Mrs. Oliver.

Our limited space will not allow us to give more than a passing commendation to Mr. Philp, Mr. Pidgeon, Mr. Skinner Prout, and Mr. Bennett. The excellence of their work is so well known that it does not need any detailed notice. Mr. Shalters exhibits several fine pictures, with well drawn sheep; Mr. Weir, a good "Nightingale" (292); and Mr. Cromek, a grand "View at Sorrento" (105). Mr. Edwin Hayes gives us more of his skilful sea-painting, and Mr. Mogford surpasses himself in "Parting Rays" (25). Mr. Beavis, a new member, does excellent service and supports the reputation of the institute, which every year appears to gather new strength and to make more and more rapid progress.

VOLUNTEERS who purpose contending for the Queen's prize at Wimbledon should send in their names through the officers commanding battalions, as individual notices to that effect cannot be attended to by the National Rifle Association.

BOOTLE CHURCH, LIVERPOOL.

A MEMORIAL CHURCH, with schools, has been built, at Bootle, at the sole expense of a merchant of Liverpool. The church accommodates upwards of 600 persons, and is situated on a most commanding site, formerly owned by Lord Derby, in the parish of Walton-on-the-hill, a suburb of Liverpool.

The plan consists of nave and aisles, chancel, transepts, western tower, spire, and north and south porches. The material used is the



BOOTLE CHURCH, LIVERPOOL.—(MESSRS. SLATER AND CARPENTER, ARCHITECTS.)

local red sandstone, with bands of white Stourton stone, which is also introduced in the arches and hood-mouldings of the windows and doors. The whole of the interior is lined with red bricks, banded with black bricks. The arcades are each of five arches, having cylindrical monolith shafts of Darleydale stone, with richly-carved capitals. The clerestory is a series of ten lancet lights. In these arches, and in those of the arcade, red moulded bricks are used, with black bricks and Stourton stone, alternately, with hood moulds of Stourton stone. The aisles have coupled and cusped lancets. The chancel arch is of very lofty proportions, richly moulded of stone and brick, and rests on each side on coupled shafts (monoliths) of Darleydale stone, with carved capitals. The chancel has a seven-sided apse, on each side of which is a lofty cusped lancet, with a richly-moulded internal arch resting on nook shafts, the capitals of which are carved. Between each window is a shaft, on which rest the cusped ribs of the roof, forming a pointed barrel vault of wood. Under the windows round the apse is a wall arcade of stone, moulded and carved, with shafts of Irish-green marble—one bay of three arches forming the sedilia. The south transept opens into the chancel, and in it are placed the children's seats. The



DRINKING-FOUNTAIN AT GUILDHALL.—(MR. J. ROBINSON, ARCHITECT.)

north transept is devoted to the vestry and organ-chamber, the front of the organ showing both in the aisle and chancel over the stalls. The instrument is of large size, and is by Walker, of London. The case is of panelled and moulded oak. The chancel seats are of oak, with carved bench-ends, with a prayer-desk on each side; the eagle is of oak, resting on the septum wall. The chancel and sanctuary are paved with Maw's encaustic and tessellated tiles, and lighted by a corona of ornamental ironwork, by Skidmore. The three arches

of the apse over the altar are filled with Salvati's mosaics, the subject being "The Adoration of the Lamb." The rest of the apse arcade will also be filled with mosaics. Three of the windows are filled with stained glass by Lavers and Barrand. The pulpit is of Caen and Hare Hill stones, moulded and panelled, polygonal in plan. The panels are filled with Salvati's mosaics, representing the evangelistic symbols; and the cornice is ornamented with marble mosaics. The lower part of the tower opens into the west end of the nave,



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, TUFNELL PARK, HOLLOWAY.
(G. TRUEFIT, ESQ., ARCHITECT.)

and is used as the baptistery. The font stands in the centre of the space. The bowl is inlaid with marbles and mosaics, and rests on clustered shafts of alabaster, and is the work of Mr. J. Forsyth, of London. The seats are of deal, simple in design. The tower has a peal of six bells; and the spire is pierced with cusped circles with a clustered and carved pinnacle at each angle of the broach.

The whole of the works have been carried out, from the designs of the architects, Messrs. Slater and Carpenter, by Messrs. Dove Brothers, under Mr. Hale, as clerk of works, and Mr. Ketteringham, as foreman. The pulpit and carving are by Messrs. Poole, of Westminster; and the eagle is by Mr. S. Pepper, of Brighton; the iron-work by Messrs. Skidmore and Co. and Mr. Potter.

The new parsonage stands at the east end of the churchyard. The material is red and black brick, with sandstone dressings. The style is Early Pointed, to harmonise with the church.

The new schools stand not very far from the church. They are simple and severe in style; of red brick with stone dressings, and covered with Welsh rag slating. They have to each school-room a class-room, with lobby and lavatory. The walls internally are lined with red brick, and the roofs are open, and of stained deal.

Both buildings are from the designs of the architects of the church.



TRIAL OF ADMIRAL PERSANO BEFORE THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE AT FLORENCE.

MEMORIAL DRINKING-FOUNTAIN AT GUILDHALL.

THE memorial drinking-fountain in Guildhall yard, King-street, Cheapside, on the north side of the church, and adjoining the Guildhall of the City, has been erected at the cost of the united parishes of St. Lawrence Jewry and St. Mary Magdalen, Milk-street, from the design of Mr. John Robinson, architect, under the directions of Messrs. John Young and Son, surveyors to those parishes. The statues and basso-relievo are by Mr. Joseph Durham, sculptor, Associate of the Royal Academy.

The edifice is of the Pointed style of architecture, which prevailed in Italy during the fourteenth century. The plan is square, measuring 9 ft. at the base and 32 ft. to the top of the spire, which is terminated by a metal cross. At the base, on the east side, is the drinking-fountain, the water flowing from a bronze basso-relievo of Moses striking the rock, under a canopy supported by polished granite shafts. Above are eight granite and marble shafts supporting canopies, under two of which (on the east and west sides) are statues of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr, holding the gridiron, the emblem of his sufferings; and St. Mary Magdalen, the patron saints of the two parishes; the other two spaces containing marble slabs, on which are inscribed the names of the twenty benefactors to the parishes to whose memory the monument has been erected, beginning with Thomas de Kelleseye, 1375, and ending with Mrs. Anne Saville, 1765.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, TUFNELL PARK, HOLLOWAY.

THIS church, of which we this week publish an Engraving, is entirely different from the many churches lately erected, and which are all so very much alike. The difficulty the architect had to deal with was to get the building at all on such a sharp triangular piece of ground; but the way he has done it shows he does not believe that a church must of necessity be of the usual nave, aisle, and chancel type, about which there is perhaps really no design whatever. In this church the interior effect has been principally thought of; and, as a building partaking of the circular plan always looks externally smaller than it really is, so the interior, which in this case is very spacious, surprises all who enter, as it seems so much larger than it appears from the outside view. There will be sittings for



MAP OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBURG.

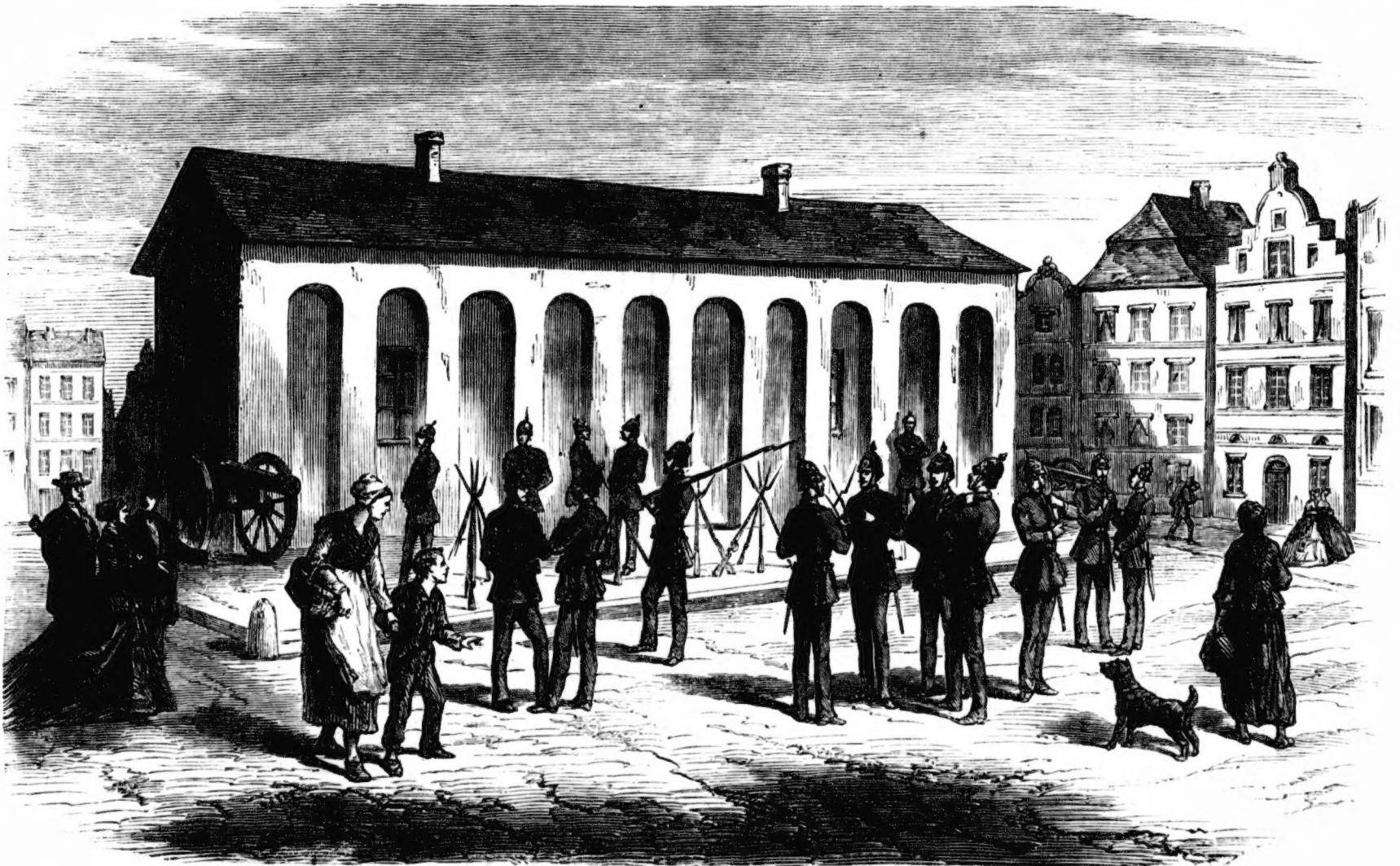
1020 adults, without galleries, the cost, £5400, being without the tower and spire, which it is hoped the heir to the estate will build when he comes of age. The site is presented by the proprietor of Tufnell Park estate, the subscriptions coming principally from the seatholders of the temporary church; but, as only about half the money has been collected, the building was temporarily stopped for want of funds. The materials are Kentish rag and Bath dressings; the columns of cast iron, 10 in. in diameter. The roofs, which are open, are all rough from the saw, without stain or varnish, and are boarded and tongued with iron. The pewing will be varnished, the seats being all open. The chancel and passages will be all laid with cement or concrete, ready for future tiles. The walls, as at present arranged, will be plastered to a height of 6 ft. only, leaving the rest to be done at a future time—in fact, everything has been carried out with regard to economy, as far as the fittings and finishings are concerned, so that the architect's original estimate of £5400 may not be exceeded. The builders are Messrs. Carter and Sons, of Hornsey-road.

TRIAL OF ADMIRAL PERSANO.

THE Italian revolution, which began in 1859 and closed in 1866, is like the Kronos of Hellenic mythology, who devoured his sons. Cavour died prematurely, Farini of mental derangement, La Farina of military fever. Garibaldi was nearly killed at Aspromonte, and is supposed to be on the point of throwing himself wildly upon Rome and leaving his bones on her streets. And now Persano, Cavour's agent in the expedition to Marsala, the stormer of Ancona and of Gaeta, has been definitively tried, condemned, and cast off by his admirers. In national revolutions the actors are few indeed who close their days in honour and in domestic retirement, like Washington and Lafayette. Generally, they either die broken-hearted, or, like Alcibiades, in exile. There is much to be learned from the fate of the leaders of national movements.

The trial of Charles Pellion, Count di Persano, Senator, and Admiral of the Italian Fleet, was conducted at Florence, in the great Senate Hall, under the Uffizi Lunghi. It commenced on the first of April and closed on the 15th.

The aspect of the hall was one of unusual solemnity. The public galleries were crowded. Those reserved for the ladies and the Corps Diplomatique being



MILITARY POST IN THE PLACE D'ARMES, LUXEMBURG.

alone empty. Marzucchi, the president of the court, sat in the centre. On his right was the Cavaliere La Marcherita; on his left a vice-secretary. At a table to the right sat the public prosecutors, Trombetta, Marvasi, and Nelli. Behind them were the counsel for the defence, the advocates Sanminiatielli and Giacosa, and Signor Clavesana, beside whom sat Persano. The Admiral was dressed in black, with white cravat, and with his decorations on his breast. He is rather above the middle height, with an angular and square countenance and with the presence and air of an Englishman. His beard was full grown and fell on his breast. He was calm, a little haughty, but courteous. He had the look of an invalid who suffered morally, but had yet strength of mind enough to keep down all semblance of sad emotion. Facing him sat the witnesses, all of them belonging to the Italian navy, and in full uniform. Every eye was fixed upon them. In front of them sat Vice-Admiral Albini—who greatly distinguished himself in Venetian waters in 1848, when he blockaded Trieste—Provana, Ribotty, and Vacca. Behind them were ships' captains and officers of marines.

At half-past twelve an usher in full uniform, and with sword in hand, announced the High Court of Justice. Then came in the senators in black dress, with white cravats, and with their decorations on their breasts. This ceremony was repeated at every sitting. The president opened the proceedings by saying to the senators that it is now their duty to try Persano—first, for having departed from the instructions given to him; second, for incompetency; third, for negligence. The charge of "cowardice" had been withdrawn by 75 to 60 votes. Had it been found valid, Persano must have expired it on the scaffold. Then the advocate Sanminiatielli urged a plea of nullity, on the ground that the War-advocate had commenced proceedings against the Admiral and had taken evidence, while ignoring the fact that Persano was a senator, and that as such he could only, in the first instance, be proceeded against and tried by the Senate. At this point Persano rose and said, calmly, that he would not avail himself of the plea of nullity, but that he left his case to the honourable testimony of the naval officers who had been summoned as witnesses.

It should be noted here that wellnigh all the witnesses were against Persano, while at no time during the trial did he utter any complaint or bring any accusation against them, as he certainly was entitled and perhaps called upon to do.

Then Nelli, as prosecutor, repelled the plea of nullity, and at considerable length, although the Admiral had expressly declined to avail himself of it. The trial now began. Persano heard the act of accusation, which alleged that, "having departed from superior instructions . . . he neither challenged, nor blockaded, nor engaged the enemy's fleet from the 8th to the 13th of July, 1866." . . . "That he failed to execute his mission by his unskilful and negligent conduct at Ancona and before Lissa, and in the seafight of the 20th of July."

Persano replied: With regard to the appearance of Tegethoff at Ancona, he had, even then, barely four ironclads in good condition. Nevertheless, he went out with the *Ré d'Italia* to form a line of battle (even with vessels not fit for war) under Monte Cornero in other words, under the batteries of Ancona. But Tegethoff had no sooner seen his movements than he took to flight. Thereafter, he cruised on the Adriatic with the object of drawing Tegethoff out of Pola, and of fighting him; but the device did not succeed, while he could not go in quest of his antagonist, for the simple reason that the Minister of Marine had expressly forbidden him to enter the harbour where Tegethoff was lying. Accordingly he returned to Ancona. Then he sailed for Lissa. He declared that if matters had gone as he had planned them to go that enterprise would have succeeded. But he repeated, "I intend to accuse no one." When asked why he went on board the *Affondatore*, he answered, "To fight." When asked why he had exposed his fleet on the side (*Di fianco*), he replied, "Because there were more guns on the sides (*Di fianchi*). He said, moreover, if his colleagues had gone to the assistance of the *Ré d'Italia* that vessel would not have perished. It is (we may observe) a fact that no one went to the assistance of the *Ré d'Italia*, so deep, it is alleged, was the jealousy of Persano among the other commanders. When asked if, after the battle, he had despaired of victory, he said "No." This was shown by the signals which he gave from the *Affondatore*: "Engage them at short range" (*Battere a tiro corto*), and "Give chase to the enemy" (*Dar caccia di nemico*). But it was then too late to obey his orders, because Tegethoff had returned to harbour.

Then began the examination of witnesses. Of these the principal were Rear-Admirals Vacca and Albini, together with a number of captains and other officers. The pleadings on both sides followed, and then Persano spoke for himself. He protested that he had a pure conscience, and that he had done his duty as a seaman, as a soldier, and as a citizen. He said that he experienced the liveliest sorrow at seeing himself sacrificed, and that he repelled with disdain imputations, slanders, and sarcasms. He defended himself from the charge of inhumanity, adducing as his witnesses the drowning men he had picked up, and said, "At this point accusation ceases and calumny begins." He replied to the charge of not having engaged the Kaiser, and observed that, if his persecutors admitted that he had made at her several times, it proved that he had had the intention of sinking her. He showed by a diagram that the Kaiser and the *Affondatore* encountered each other obliquely; that he, foreseeing that the Kaiser would turn suddenly to the left, called out "To the right!" that, in fact, the Kaiser did turn to the left, but the *Affondatore* was too slow in her movements, and the blow missed. "With regard," he continued, "to the undertaking against Lissa, I wanted 20,000 men; I wanted to go to Fasana. I did not get what I required; but I was sent to Lissa. There I never, as is supposed, made over the command to d'Amico." Alluding to the pain with which he saw himself placed before his inferiors in command, who had to pass sentence on his conduct, he said, "My spirit is torn and my heart bleeds. It is indeed a sorrow which no other can equal! Wherefore should I court concealment? I am not afraid. Fear I never knew. I stand before you. Let my accusers come to me; I am ready to answer each and all. I walk abroad; I show myself in public, before all the world. I bare my head; I lift an undaunted brow, because I never sullied it by a single act or covered it with the blush of shame!"

These were Persano's last words, pronounced with energy and dignity—words which produced a lively emotion. Then the discussion closed, and the High Court sentenced him to dismissal from the ser-

vice, to deprivation from the rank of Admiral-in-Chief of the Italian fleet, and to pay the expenses of the trial. It is said that Persano has sent challenges to an Admiral and two Captains who gave evidence at his trial.

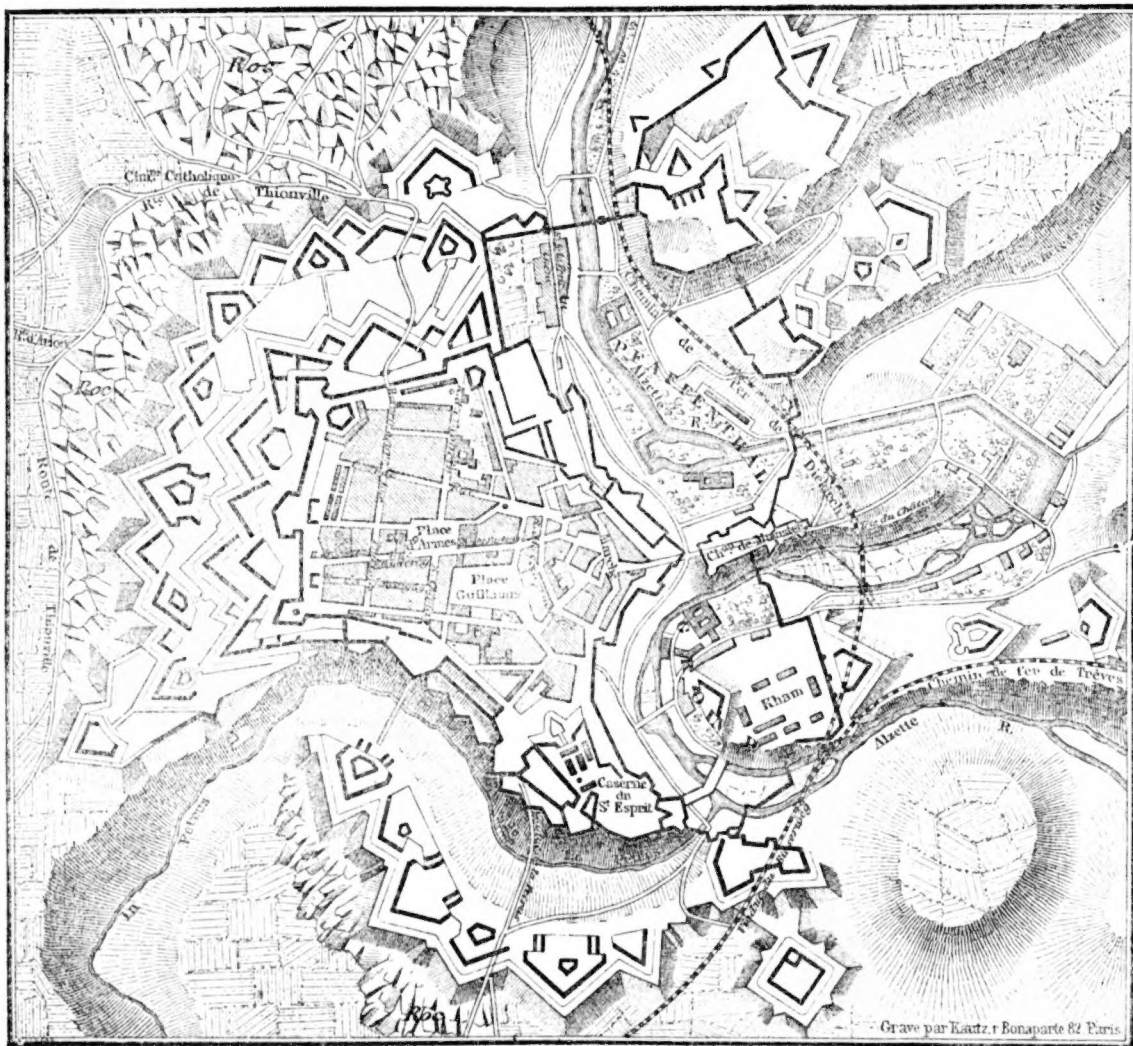
THE DUCHY AND FORTRESS OF LUXEMBURG.

We have already published some particulars of the territorial position and strategical importance of Luxembourg, and our Engravings this week represent the geographical situation of the duchy and the plan of the famous fortress. Luxembourg is a mountainous country, with no plains of any great extent; on the contrary, it includes a number of beautiful valleys, among which the principal are those of Diekirch, Roeser, Mersch, the Moselle, Ettelbrück, and Echternach. The central portion, occupied by a mass of rugged rocks of freestone and blue lias, presents but a bare appearance; the heights, roughly formed into plateaus are, as it were, guarded by enormous blocks of stone, which seem like the ruins of some gigantic building, the blooming meadows and rich pastures of the adjacent valleys contrasting in a remarkable way with the sombre belt of oak and beech forests, which embrace the base of the envolving mountains. The plateaux, formerly also covered with trees, are now in a great measure cultivated, presenting alternations, however, of furze, well-stocked fields, and stony wastes. The mountains of the duchy are a continuation of the chains of the Ardennes and the Vosges, the keystone of the former range being situated in Belgian Luxembourg, whence the sources of the Sûre, the Ourthe, and the Lesse make the boundary between the basin of the Rhine and that of the Meuse. Thence three chains ramify across the duchy; and one of them, guarding the frontier on the Prussian side, joins at St. Vith the Ardennes chain to that of the Eifel. The north-eastern portion of Luxembourg is composed of a vast plateau bristling with rocks; peaked rocks of a bluish grey and of great height above the rivers which flow beneath them harshly terminate the declivities of the mountains, the sides

minant position. "Those who have never seen Luxembourg," said Goethe, "can form no idea of that astounding edifice of war." Goethe had a view of this enormous construction from the bottom of the valley; and his description as regarded from this point is wonderfully close and picturesque; but, in order to see the town in its complete military efficiency, it should be viewed from the height of Fetschenhof, on the old road from Trèves. It is there, on its pedestal of rock, with its belt of towers and ramparts, its hundred destroyers ready to deal death and wounds, that it appears most imposing and invincible. From this side—that is to say, from the eastern side—a vast plain covered with forests and cultivated fields spreads out in the front of the fortress, from which it is only separated by the valley of Clausen; and it is only a bird's flight which separates us from a perpendicular wall of rock more imposing than that on which we stand. It used to be a remarkably fatiguing journey to reach the high town from the gate of Thionville, for the rise is so steep that the visitors from the country were formerly compelled to leave their vehicles at the bottom of the Grund; now, however, the traveller has four railways at his disposal, and a bridge across the steep has brought grief and loss upon the tavern-keepers and auvergistes of the Grund.

Nature and art have combined to make the fortress of Luxembourg one of the strongest in Europe; its works are gigantic, very numerous, and apparently completely impregnable on all sides; but they are so complicated that to garrison them for war would require from 14,000 to 15,000 men, while the present force consists of only about 2500 men, including artillery and sappers; but it must be remembered that there is plenty of rifled artillery at the fort and that the place is only seven or eight miles by rail from Trèves, where there is a Prussian division. One of the principal means of defence is a system of about 500 mines embracing all the exterior works.

As we have already said, Luxembourg is identified with this enormous fortress, and there are few other buildings in the town of any great importance, although there are a few of some historical interest. The Government House and the Hôtel de Ville are comparatively modern; but the Palace of Justice was originally built in 1565, and was till 1795 the seat of the Government. It is a very spacious building with a very fine view from its balconies. The town, besides some fine promenades, has three principal squares, the Fish Market, the Wilhelm Place, and the Place d'Armes, the latter of which is represented in our Engraving, and is occupied by a Prussian military post in connection with the barracks, which consist of seven divisions—Port Neuve, capable of containing 560 men, built in 1768, and entered by the new gate and the Rue de Capucins; the Pioneers, near the Arsenal, for 400 men, and the most ancient fortress (having been built in 1674); the Maria Theresa, in the street of the same name, finished in 1736, and meant for 400 men; the Saint-Esprit, for 560 men, and built, in 1770, on the site of the ancient abbey of the Urbanists, a monastery founded, in 1274, by the Countess Ermsinde, and existing till 1684, when Louis XIV. put a barrack in its place and moved the order to Pfaffenthal; the series of buildings called the Rham, built in 1685, and accommodating 1080 men; the Vauban, for 670 men, built in 1687 as a military hospital, but transformed into a barrack in 1828, when the hospital was removed to the convent of Munster; and, lastly, the Cavaliers (Ritter Kasern), built in 1688, and capable of lodging 405 men.



GROUND PLAN OF THE TOWN AND FORTIFICATIONS OF LUXEMBURG.

and summits of which are clothed with forests, in which the trees are generally stunted, while the ground is covered with broom and furze. The dreary monotony of this scene is, however, occasionally broken by deep ravines, which introduce you as by enchantment to views of wonderful beauty and grandeur. Thus the valleys of the Sûre, the Ur, and the two Erenz offer prospects rivalling anything which can be found on the banks of the Rhine. The southern territory has none of these plateaux; on the contrary, it is a region of cultivated valleys and isolated mountains, of a conical shape. The culminating point of these heights is Mont Saint-Jean, in the canton of Esch, quite close to the French frontier. Almost the entire district is watered by the Moselle, and part of it by the Chiers, which, rising in the S.W., crosses several valleys, and, after a course of about two leagues, passes the frontier, and, flowing through Belgian Luxembourg towards France, joins the Meuse not far from Sedan. The Moselle is, in fact, the S.E. limit of the grand duchy, winding for eight leagues from Schengen to Wasserbillig, touching Remich, Stadtbredimus, Ehenen, Wormaldange, Ahn, Machthum, Grewenmacher, and Mertert. The principal river of the country, however, is the Sauer, or, as the French call it, the Sûre. Rising in the Ardennes in Belgian Luxembourg, about four leagues from the frontier, it enters near Martelange into the duchy, and, after having watered the district of Esch, joins at Ettelbrück with the Alzette. The places through which it flows are so interesting that there are few journeys which would better repay the tourist than to follow its course amidst the marvellous and diversified scenery to which it will lead him. The nine cantons which form the southern part of the duchy occupy about two thirds of the entire territory, and are very fertile both in cereals and fruit, the wheat harvests being so abundant as to allow of considerable exportation. The trade in cattle and horses is also of some importance, a large number of the latter being supplied to France, while the hams and bacon of Ardennes rejoice in a world-wide reputation. Almost a tenth part of the whole territory is covered with fine forests, supplying the tanneries, which are amongst the most important manufacturing institutions of the country; and in the southern portion of the duchy several important mines are situated, containing near the surface both lead and iron; while some other minerals have lately been discovered. The stone quarries are rich and numerous, and the slate quarries of Haut-Martelange are very productive. The leather and glove trade is considerable, and there are several paper-mills in the duchy; while the town of Luxembourg possesses four lithographic and six general printing establishments, besides brass-factories, tobacco-works, and distilleries. It is to the fortifications, however, that Luxembourg owes its pro-

At Her Majesty's Theatre, the "Marriage of Figaro" was brought out last Saturday, the opening night, in place of the originally advertised "Lombardi." No one could complain of the substitution. "I Lombardi," which was played on Tuesday evening, with Mongini in the tenor part, was received with all due favour; but the "Marriage of Figaro" is one of the most delightful operas ever written. The cast was neither that of this season's programme nor of last season's performance. Mlle. Titiens (as last year) took the part of the Countess, Mlle. Sinico that of Susanna, while Mr. Santley appeared as Count Almaviva, and Signor Gassier as Figaro. In the character of Basilio, Signor Bettini was replaced by Mr. Lyall, who sang the music well, but omitted the one air. This piece is often left out, but it was retained last year by Signor Bettini. Signor Foll, too, now plays Bartolo in lieu of Signor Bossi. The only other change from the cast of last season was in the part of Cherubino, which is now sustained, not by Mlle. Trebelli-Bettini, but by Mme. Demeric Lablache. Mme. Demeric sang the lovely melody "Voi che sapete" with much expression, and was called upon to repeat it. Mlle. Sinico and Mr. Santley were encored, too, in "Crudel perche;" and it would have been strange indeed if the ever-welcome duet, "Sull' aria," as sung by Mlle. Titiens and Mlle. Sinico, had not been re-demanded. The other most successful pieces of the evening were Mlle. Titiens's "Dove sono," Mlle. Sinico's "Deh vieni," Signor Gassier's "Non più andrai," and Mr. Santley's "Vedro menti io sospiro." The bald and chorus were those of last season; the former excellent, the latter superexcellent. Signor Arditì conducted, and on taking his place in the orchestra was warmly applauded. Of course "God Save the Queen" was sung, the solo verses being given by Mlle. Titiens, who was in admirable voice.

We have already published a full notice of Mr. Mapleson's programme. Our readers are aware that he has engaged Mlle. Nilsson, and that he has re-engaged both Mlle. Ilma de Murska and Mme. Trebelli-Bettini. It will be quite possible, then, for him in the course of the season to give even a more attractive performance of the "Marriage of Figaro" than that of Saturday evening, which, however, was in all important respects excellent.

The ballad concerts now being given by Mr. Boosey are admirable examples of what such entertainments should be. At the second of the series Miss Louisa Pyne sang Bishop's "Love has Fyes," Wallace's "Power of Love," and the old Irish ditty "Savourneen Deelish," declining an encore for the first named; as also did Mme. Dolby for the Scotch air "The Land of the Leal," and Clibb's "Silver Chimes." Miss Edith Wynne, however, was unable to refuse

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

ON Saturday last, in consequence of the continued illness of Signor Naudin, "Fra Diavolo," which had been announced for performance at the Royal Italian Opera, was not played. "Faust" was substituted for it, and the not very important part of Valentino was taken, for the first time, by Signor Cotogni. To night will be one of the great nights of the season. The opera is "Il Barbiere," and Mlle. Adeline Patti will appear as Rosina.

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